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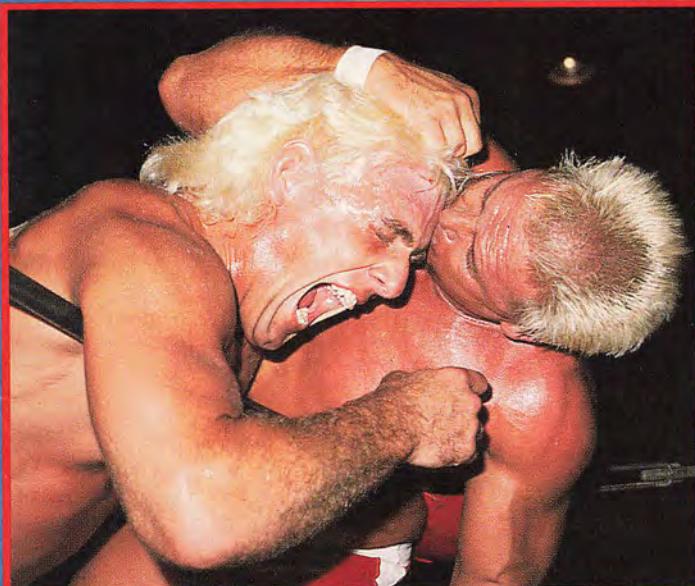
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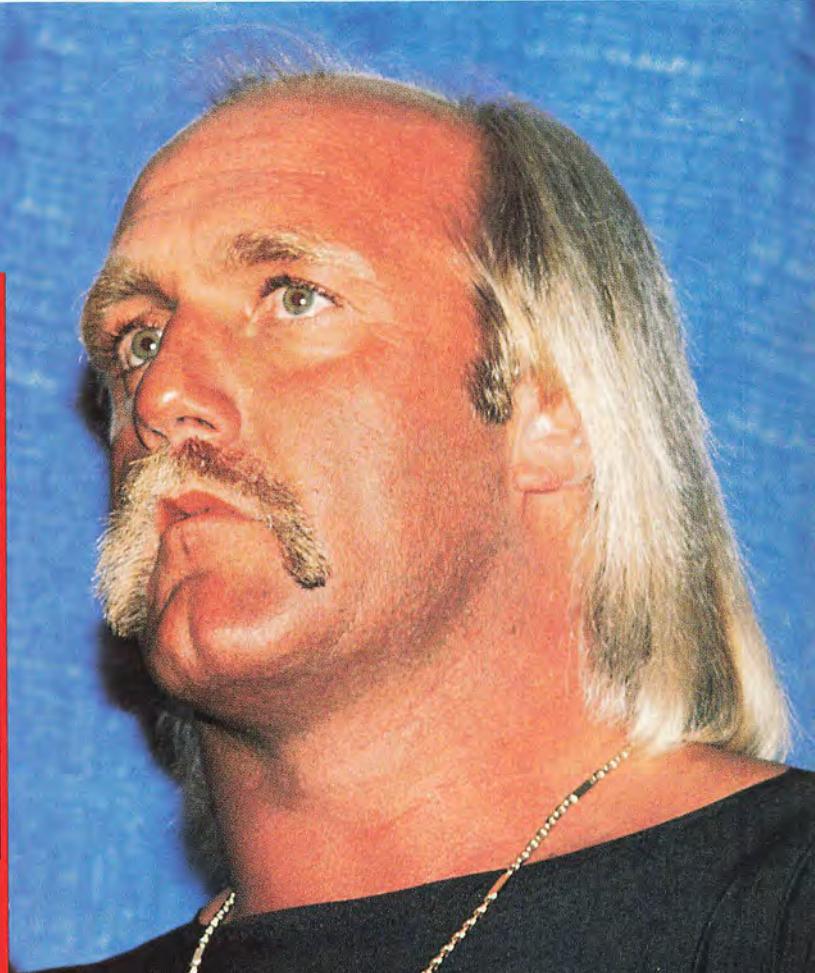
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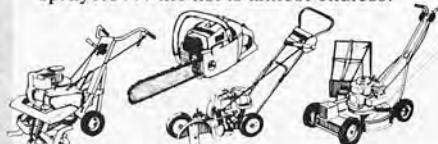
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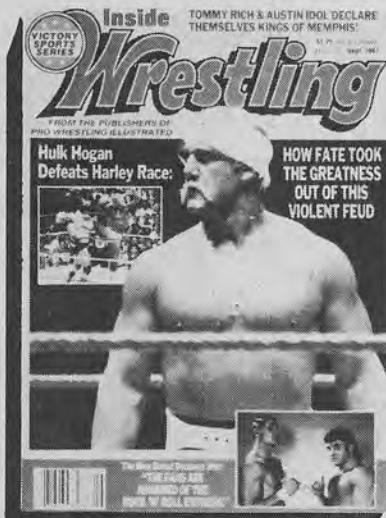
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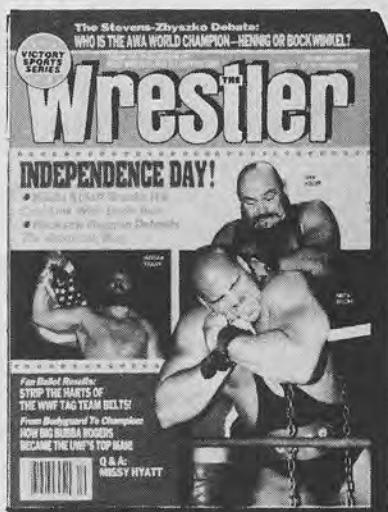
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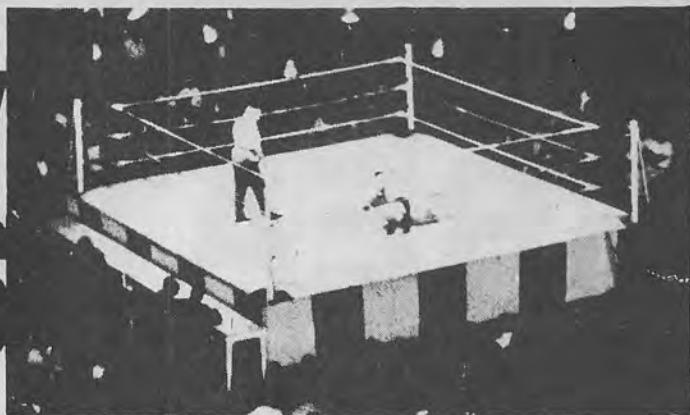
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ROADIES VS. ROCKERS

I've been a reader of *Inside Wrestling* for over five years and every month it gets better and better. What I would like to comment on is the article "The Rock 'n' Roll Express Win Their Fourth NWA Title: How Long Can They Avoid The Road Warriors?" (October 1987).

That was one of the best articles I have ever read. The answer to that question is: until the Warriors get finished in Japan.

Hawk and Animal coming back to the U.S. means doom for the Rock 'n' Rolls. Both teams are highly popular with the fans, but if they clash it will be the match of the year. I believe that the Warriors could beat The Express for the NWA World belts.

BERNARD PARKER
St. Petersburg, FL

BIGGER IS BETTER

In response to Fidela Carrizale's letter in your October 1987 issue. Fidela had the pathetic nerve to say the UWF has more talent than the WWF, and that a WWF wrestler could never win a UWF match. What a joke!

First of all, let it be known that the WWF has signed Ted DiBiase and One Man Gang, two of the UWF's star wrestlers. Now to the point of the matter: Hulk Hogan can beat *any* UWF "star" easily—he has challenged and destroyed wrestlers bigger and badder than fat Bubba Rogers, including a certain giant named Andre. Any WWF wrestler could crush a UWF squirt like Eddie Gilbert, Terry Taylor, or Chris Adams. These three are small enough



A boyish-looking Eddie Gilbert poses with Andre the Giant in this 1980 photo. Although he's now a star in the UWF, Gilbert would be no match for any WWF wrestler, according to reader Russel Maniouc.

to be valets or janitors, but not wrestlers. Put any UWF wrestler against Hercules Hernandez, Hulk Hogan, Paul Orndorff, Randy Savage, Kamala, or Andre the Giant, and see if they leave the arena intact. I would pay a lot to see any poor fool in the UWF get DDT'd by Jake "The Snake" Roberts!

The UWF is a step above the AWA, but far behind the WWF.

RUSSEL MANIOUC
Hamilton, Ontario

A SHOT AT LUGER

I'd like to send a little message to Lex Luger, "The Complete Package":

You know, Lex, you've got some nerve saying that Dusty Rhodes is going to be the next chapter in your autobiography. You obviously don't know who you're messing with. The man is a three-time NWA World heavyweight champion. Just ask Ric Flair what it's like to lose the 10 pounds of gold to "The American (Continued on page 60)



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Stu
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Editor-in-Chief

Ronnie Garvin's NWA World title victory in Detroit on September 25 might hold far greater significance than being merely a detour on Ric Flair's path to immortality.

While it is commonly believed that Flair will regroup and regain his title from Garvin, there is a very real possibility that Flair will not only fail to regain the title, but that he could also wind up feuding with the remaining members of The Four Horsemen.

As of this writing, Flair has signed more title rematches with Garvin than any man truly deserves and the odds are overwhelmingly in favor of Flair regaining the belt. But Garvin is also signed for a smattering of matches with Lex Luger and Tully Blanchard. And should one of these men be able to lift the title, where would that leave Flair and the Horsemen?

Flair was very content to devote time to the Horsemen while he was the quartet's star. They served an obvious function as ringside bodyguards, but, equally important, they offered Flair a diversion from the lonely rigors of defending a world title. Should one of his fellow Horsemen wind up with his title, however, he will not be content with the role of supporting player.

Anyone who knows Flair also knows that should Luger or Blanchard win the title, The Four Horsemen will become a part of Ric Flair's past. Flair knows nothing about friendship. His only friend is the diamond-studded gold belt that he's worn around his waist for the better part of the past six years. If Luger or Blanchard held the belt, Flair would go after the title with the same zeal he would if Ronnie Garvin or Dusty Rhodes or Barry Windham held it. The rest of the Horsemen would probably turn against Flair, and who knows what would happen after that? Surely, it would make for an interesting 1988 in the National Wrestling Alliance.

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Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David
Rosenbaum

THE HONKY TONK Man is in love.

I've seen all the signs—the look on his face, the way he walks into the ring, the way he acts on interviews—and there's no denying it. Yes, the WWF Intercontinental title is now *second* on Honky Tonk's list of priorities, taking a backseat to the beautiful Elizabeth, manager of "Macho Man" Randy Savage. But beneath it all, I think Elizabeth is an evil woman, and her feigned innocence will lead Honky Tonk down the road to doom. Let me explain.

Honky Tonk is a good man. He's starved for attention, wanting to be loved, but constantly getting the short end of the stick. He saw Elizabeth and probably said to himself, "Now I could give that girl a good life and take care of her." And who could argue with him? Elizabeth is the kind of woman that can make men act like fools. She is beautiful. Honky Tonk was affected.

Savage, at heart, is also a good man, which never came to light until very recently. In reality, Savage was doing what he could to protect the woman he loved. So he was a vicious man, jealous of other wrestlers, convinced that everybody was out to get her. How would *you* react if somebody came on to your loved one the way George Steele did?

Besides, Elizabeth was driving him to act the way he did. Publicly, Elizabeth held the ring ropes for Savage and acted like she was scared of him. Privately, sweet little Liz told Savage to maul Rick Steamboat and acted as if she liked Steele—just to make Randy jealous.

Fans, your sympathy was wasted on Elizabeth. You should have
(Continued on page 56)

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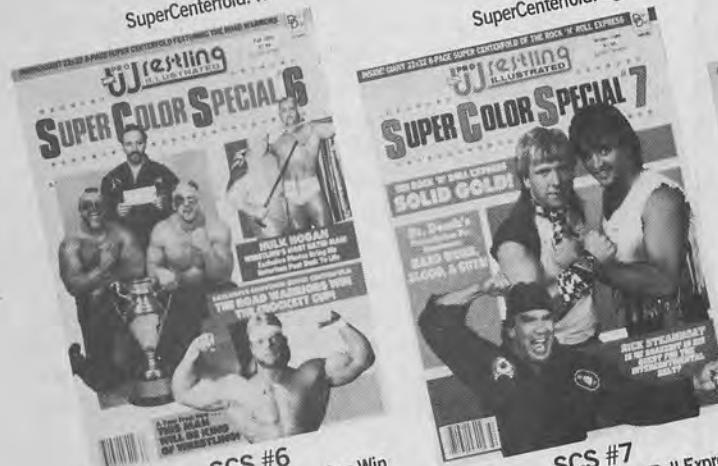
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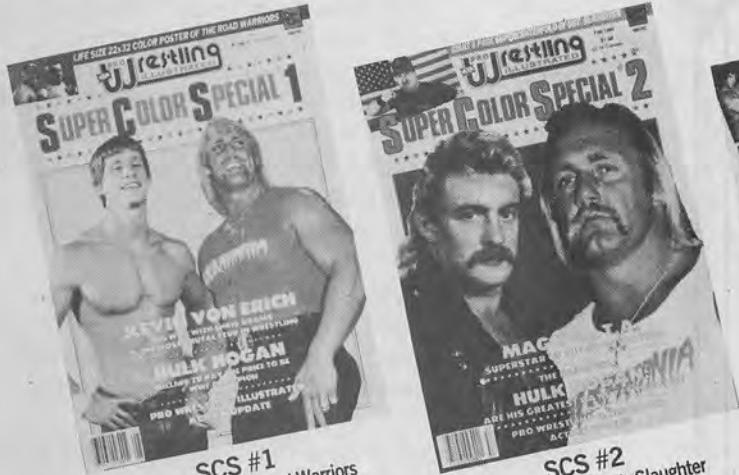
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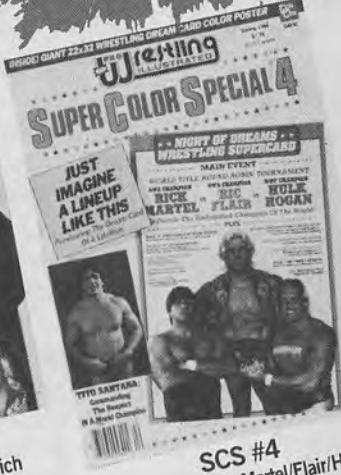
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I'VE SEEN IT so many times before, it's beginning to shake my faith in what *anyone* says.

Ted DiBiase, when he was wrestling in the UWF, said that he would remain a purely scientific wrestler, that he respected the fans, and that he'd stand as a solid role model for young people nationwide. Some role model. Now DiBiase's bribing little kids to do pushups, and even when they claim that they've done their best, DiBiase reneges on the offer and laughs in their faces.

Brian Adias, growing up in Texas, was best friends with the Von Erich family. Kerry and Kevin considered Brian another brother. Adias said that he'd always be at the Von Erichs' side, that he'd support them through good times and bad times. Some support. Adias is using a maneuver in Texas called "Oriental tool," a vicious spike to the throat that very nearly caused permanent damage to Kevin Von Erich's windpipe.

I've seen Paul Orndorff claim to change his ways in the WWF, Lex Luger court the fans' support in Florida, and Terry Taylor attempt to maintain a friendship with Chris Adams in the UWF. I've seen Curt Hennig turn his back on the rulebook, Dick Murdoch join forces with Ivan Koloff, and Harley Race forsake seven NWA World titles to become "The King Of Wrestling."

Now I'm seeing Bam Bam Bigelow and his manager Oliver Humperdink claim to be on the side of motherhood, apple pie, and Hulk Hogan.

Why don't I believe them?

Part of the reason is that Bigelow and Humperdink have never been that trustworthy in the past. But part of the reason comes from a man who ought to know more about Bigelow than anyone else in wrestling: Larry Sharpe.



Bam Bam Bigelow and Larry Sharpe

Back when Bigelow was pounding his way toward a first runner-up finish in the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Achievement '86 Rookie of the Year voting, Sharpe managed him in the Mid-Southern and World Class areas. Perhaps more important than that, Sharpe's "Monster

ON THE ROAD with CRAIG PETERS

Factory" wrestling school was where Bigelow first learned the basic skills that have made him the impressive force he is today.

"I don't want to say anything about Humperdink," Sharpe told me, "because I don't claim to know much about him anyway, but I can tell you about Bigelow, and what I want to say is this: Bigelow is a madman. A complete and utter madman. I wouldn't trust him for a minute."

"Bigelow and I were as close as two men could possibly be," Sharpe con-

tinued, "and I never felt comfortable with anything he ever said or did. You never knew when he was going to change his mind about something. It could have been as insignificant as his dinner order in a restaurant or as monumental as his adoption of Russian ideologies and the changing of his name to 'Crusher Yurkof.' I'll tell you, that whole Russian thing was amazing to me. I didn't know who he was. I still don't know who he is."

I asked Sharpe if maybe his opinions about Bigelow weren't sour grapes. After all, Bigelow discarded Sharpe months before his arrival in the WWF, and Sharpe has got to be bitter about seeing a former charge make it big in the WWF.

"Bitter? No, I'm not bitter. But I am honest, and honesty demands that I tell you that Bigelow is not a man to be trusted. See, a lot of people are looking at Bigelow's fan favorite status in the WWF and are beginning to speculate on things like a Hogan-Bigelow tag team. Sure, that would be awesome, but if I were Hogan, I wouldn't trust him. Hell, if I were the scummiest, filthiest, nastiest wrestler in the universe, I still wouldn't trust him. You're talking about a man who was a bounty hunter, who ran down murderers for pay. There are no scruples in that man, believe me. I know."

Sharpe should know, and I don't think he's being bitter. Sure, he'd like to be in Humperdink's shoes, particularly from a financial standpoint. But I also detected a sense of relief in Sharpe's voice. Managing Bigelow was undoubtedly no picnic, and I think Sharpe senses that Bigelow's turn back to the vicious rulebreaker he once was is only a matter of time. What man in his right mind would want to manage such an unstable individual? Indeed, what man in his right mind would trust such an unstable individual?

I hope every WWF wrestler is asking himself that very question.

A special note for couch potatoes:

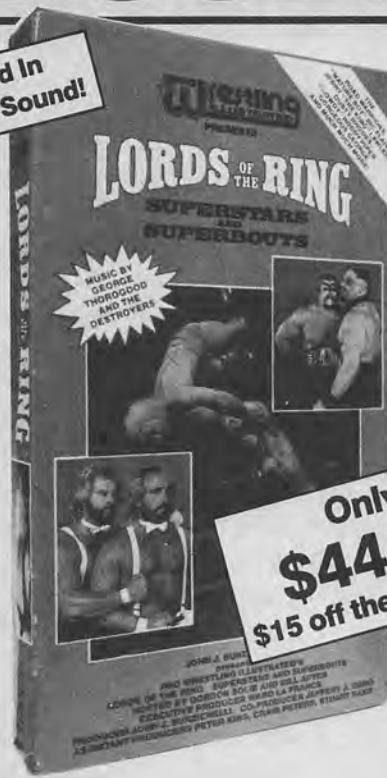
Whenever I go on the road, there are two questions that people ask me more than any others: What is Eddie Ellner like? What is Matt Brock like?

Eddie I'll discuss some other time, but Matt . . . well, my answer to people asking about Matt can now be given by directing them to a new TV series called *The "Slap" Maxwell Story*.

If any actor was to play Brock, it would have to be Dabney Coleman. I hope Matt's not insulted. □

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NAMES MAKI

Years from now, it will be remembered as "The Five Days That Shook The NWA." On September 25 in Detroit, **Ronnie Garvin** won the NWA World heavyweight championship from **Ric Flair**. Five nights later in Misenheimer, North Carolina, **Tully Blanchard** and **Arn Anderson** end-



RONNIE GARVIN

ed **The Rock 'n' Roll Express'** four-month World tag team title reign.

"J.J. giveth and J.J. taketh away," said **J.J. Dillon**, manager of **The Four Horsemen**. "When Ric was robbed of the belt by Garvin in Detroit, Tully and Arn knew that the reputation of the Horsemen was at stake. As usual, they did not let me down. And when Ric regains the title in just a short time, The Four Horsemen will own every important NWA championship." **Lex Luger**, the fourth member of the Horsemen, is currently the U.S. champion.

Garvin defeated Flair in a stirring steel cage match lasting 39 minutes and 28 seconds at the Joe Louis Arena. Garvin summoned up every last ounce of energy to fight off Flair, and

late in the match was certainly the stronger man. The end came with both men on the ropes pounding away at one another. Flair finally fell to the mat and Garvin prepared for a flying body-press. But when Flair stood up, Garvin executed a perfect sunset flip for the pin.

There was considerably more controversy surrounding the tag team title match. Before the bout, **Jim Cornette** told TV announcer **Tony Schiavone** that **The Midnight Express** wasn't getting enough title



BLANCHARD & ANDERSON

shots. **Rick Morton** then confronted Cornette, slapped him, and told him they'd wrestle the Midnights anytime. Later, Morton and **Robert Gibson** were headed to the ring for their match against Anderson and Blanchard when they were ambushed by Cornette, **Stan Lane**, and **Bobby Eaton**. Morton's left shoulder was injured by Cornette's tennis racket, and he had to be assisted back to the dressing room by **Dusty Rhodes**, **Nikita Koloff**, and **Barry Windham**.

This left Gibson to wrestle Anderson

and Blanchard on his own. Gibson held his own for a while, but the Horsemen finally took control. Gibson suffered a brutal beating, at one point vainly turning to his corner to tag off to a partner who wasn't there. Finally, Morton came to the ring with a bandage wrapped around his left shoulder and begged Gibson to tag him. Morton tagged in and mounted a brief rally before a double-teaming effort by Tully and Arn turned the tide for good. Gibson ran in to help and declared a submission in order to prevent further injury to his partner.

It appears we were a little too late with our feature story, "Warning To The Rock 'n' Roll Express: You Can't Take On The Four Horsemen Alone!" (page 29) for Morton and Gibson's sake.

Comedian **Richard Belzer** is suing WWF World champion **Hulk Hogan**



HOGAN & BELZER

for \$5 million due to an incident on the March 28, 1985, edition of Lifetime network's cable-TV talk show, **Hot Properties**. Hogan allegedly injured Belzer when he put the host in a front facelock then released the hold, allow-

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

ing Belzer to fall to the floor. Belzer received eight stitches and was treated for throat pain . . . **Kerry Von Erich's** official return to the ring is slated for Thanksgiving Day at the Reunion Arena in Dallas against **Brian Adias**. In preparation for the match, Kerry is also scheduled to spar with several wrestlers on October 17 at World Class' Cotton Bowl card.



KERRY VON ERICH

We'll probably never see another NWA World title vs. WWF World title match, but the two rival federations are getting set for another kind of war. **Jim Crockett** Promotions' annual Thanksgiving Day Starrcade show will be available on pay-per-view TV throughout the country, but it won't go unopposed. The WWF, which set pay-per-view records with WrestleMania III, will enter the fray on Thanksgiving with The Survivors Series. It will be a 10-man elimination match pitting **Hulk Hogan, Superstar Graham, Ken Patera, Bam Bam Bigelow**, and



ANDRE THE GIANT

Paul Orndorff against **Andre the Giant, Butch Reed, King Kong Bundy, One Man Gang, and Rick Rude**. The NWA is scheduled to feature, among other bouts, **Ronnie Garvin vs. Ric Flair, Dusty Rhodes vs. Lex Luger**, and a Chicago street-fight pitting **The Road Warriors** against **Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson**. Check with your local cable company for further information on both cards.

Tony Garea's sons **Ivan** and **Paul** are starting linebackers for the Rutgers college football team . . . **Larry Zbyszko** has signed a contract with the NWA and was scheduled to start wrestling in the World Championship area November 1 . . . **The Southern Boys—Tracy Smothers and Steve Armstrong**—are feuding with **Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond** in the Mid-Southern area . . . **The Mighty Goliath** suffered a compound fracture of the ankle in a match against Smothers. Goliath had his ankle caught in the mat when Smothers dropkicked him.

Earthquake Ferris won the Central States title from **Rufus R. Jones** on September 28 in Des Moines, Iowa. Ferris is a member of the "Downtown Connection," the stable managed by

former Mid-Southern manager **Downtown Bruno**. Bruno also has the current Central States tag team champions, **The Batten Twins**.

Dennis Condrey and **Randy Rose**, the "original" Midnight Express, have been hot on the trail of AWA World tag team champions **Boris Zukhov** and **Soldat Ustinov** in a series of rulebreaker vs. rulebreaker matches . . . A group of several smaller promotions around the country have joined together to form the World Wrestling Alliance. A tournament for their championship is planned for January. The site will be announced shortly.

Scott Irwin, who wrestled in the NWA, AWA, WWF, and WCCW, died of a brain tumor at age 35 on September 5 at St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth, Minnesota. Irwin battled cancer



SCOTT IRWIN

for over a year after he was diagnosed by a doctor in May 1986 while competing in the NWA. He is survived by his mother and father, a son, two daughters, and brother **Bill**. A benefit dance for Irwin's family was planned for October 31 at the Casa de Roma Restaurant in Duluth.

That's all for now, fans! See you at the matches!

BACK ISSUES OF



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February 1976/Stories include: Andre, Sammartino, Rhodes, Valentine.

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November 1976/Stories include: Sammartino, Andre, Valentine, Mosca.

December 1976/Stories include: Von Erich, Mulligan, Brody, Funk.

January 1977/Stories include: Brody, Andre, Wrestling II, Mascaras.

February 1977/Stories include: Sammartino, Jones, Funk, Von Raschke.

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May 1977/Stories include: Mascaras, Valiants, Andersons, Sammartino.

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January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorf, Flair, Hansen.

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November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.

December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.

February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.

March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.

April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.

May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steambat, Hogan-Andre.

June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.

July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.

August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.

September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.

October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.

November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.

December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.

INSIDE WRESTLING

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THE

INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

RANDY SAVAGE VS. The Honky Tonk Man. I suspect Honky Tonk has something diabolical planned, but I'm confident Savage will prevail and recapture the Intercontinental belt. The match progresses according to plan. Unlike other nights, where his mind has been beyond the ring, Savage is here to wrestle. Victory seems assured. I am happy; the world has not been right since Rick Steamboat robbed Savage of the title at WrestleMania III. Honky Tonk's sickening shtick annoys me.

Savage slugs Jimmy Hart, a move that in retrospect hardly seems wise, since Brett Hart and Jim Neidhart are bound to intervene. They intervene. Elizabeth pleads with them not to bash Honky Tonk's guitar over Savage's head. Instead, Honky Tonk pushes Elizabeth, who flees to the dressing room. Then the Harts bash Honky Tonk's guitar over Savage's head and attempt to rearrange a face already not blessed with great natural beauty.

Who do you call? I'm not sure. Personally, I would accept the beating and vow revenge. Begin a crusade to personally dismantle The Hart Foundation. See my star rise again to a point where promoters are begging for a Hogan-



Randy Savage runs The Honky Tonk Man into the ringpost. Eddie Ellner was shocked when Hulk Hogan saved Savage from Honky Tonk and The Hart Foundation. He thought Hogan and Savage were natural enemies who would never reconcile.

Savage title series.

But it was not my call to make. In her mad dash to the dressing room, Elizabeth, lovely dim-witted Elizabeth, grabbed the first sympathetic head she saw.

The head, slightly brown and balding, belonged to WWF champion Hulk Hogan. Always the gentleman, Hogan accompanied Elizabeth to the ring and rescued Randy Savage. Rescue is too meek a word. He saved Savage. From almost certain annihilation. He trounced the Harts. He sent them scurrying back to their rat holes. Rumor has it that he even placed in them the fear of God.

Savage and Hogan then stare at each other from across the ring. Instincts are on alert: *Start wrestling. You are natural enemies. You are bound by law to attack each other and rip lungs out from each other's bodies.*

Place Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage in the same ring and can there be any other choice?

The Natural Order of Things is on vacation, however. Hogan and Savage shake hands like long-lost lodge brothers. Your humble columnist is taken by a great fever. For days he cannot leave his bed. Food and drink must be supplied by a team of nurses. Finally, summoning his last ounce of strength, he manages to place a "Position Wanted" classified ad in newspapers across the country.

I've overestimated my capacity for punishment. I thought I was much tougher than this. But I'm not. I'm meek. Terribly thin-skinned. I've had all that I can take. Stop the world and let me off. Randy Savage and Hulk Hogan are best buddies.

There is, from my point of view, (Continued on page 58)

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A—ON—ASSIGNMENT

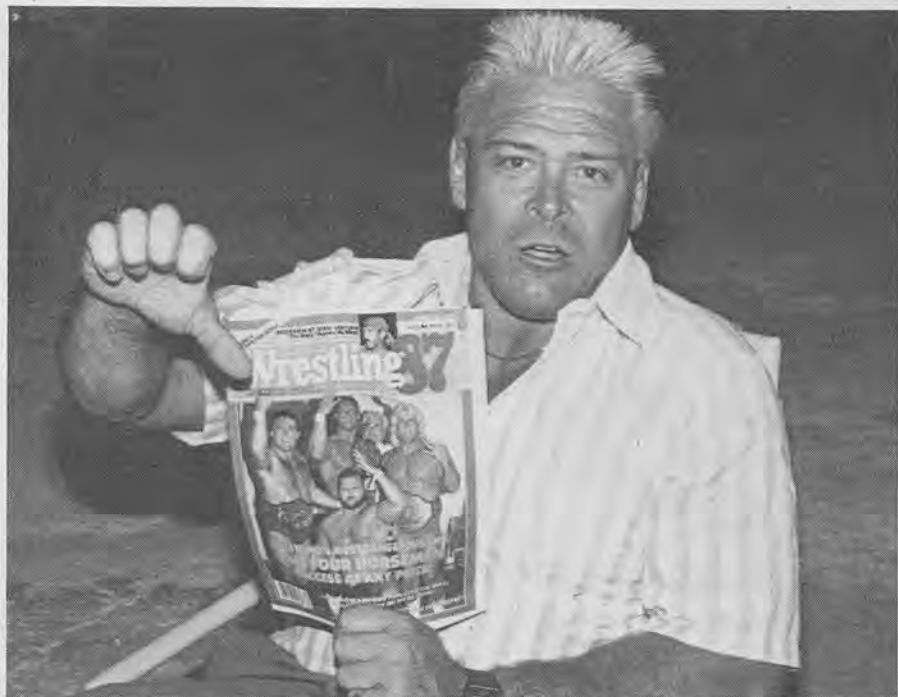
BY LIZ HUNTER

[Editor's note: As reported elsewhere in this magazine, Ronnie Garvin captured the NWA World title from Ric Flair on September 25 in Detroit. Liz Hunter recently interviewed Garvin three times, both before and after the title victory. The following column is based on a talk with Ronnie Garvin the challenger. Hunter's interview with Garvin after he won the belt will appear in next month's "On Assignment."]

RONNIE GARVIN'S HANDS are not made of stone. In fact, they are soft and supple, more the hands of a pianist than a professional wrestler. But try telling Ric Flair or Lex Luger that Garvin has the hands of a musician. They will take exception, pointing to a catalogue of bruises and welts they owe to Garvin's fists.

Ronnie Garvin is strong. Blessed with a body built to absorb punishment and a willingness to accept pain, Garvin is one of wrestling's toughest men. Flair, who dispenses compliments as often as Scrooge gave away Christmas bonuses, says of the challenger, "Every match against Garvin is a war. A whirlpool, four aspirin, and 10 hours sleep—and maybe I'm back together."

Garvin's home is that of a man's man. Wood, mahogany, and brick dominate. I sit downstairs in his beautiful living room bar while Garvin finds us a couple of beers. Tomorrow night he faces Flair for the NWA title, and I de-



Ronnie Garvin gives a "thumbs down" to The Four Horsemen as they appear on the cover of our sister publication *Wrestling 87*. Garvin spoke with Liz Hunter both before and after he won the NWA World title from Ric Flair.

tect a quiet confidence—something I had never noticed before.

LIZ HUNTER: You seem ready for Flair tomorrow. Is there some new angle, some new move you want to tell us about?

RONNIE GARVIN: Nope, not really, although if there was, I doubt I'd tell you, Liz. I've wrestled Flair before. I pretty much know what to expect. I've been feeling right lately, if you know what I mean. Mentally, physically, everything seems to be clicking.

LH: Have you been training differently?

RG: I've been training more diligently. Maybe I have a little of Jimmy somewhere inside me.

LH: What kind of influence has your brother had on your career?

RG: Well, it wasn't 'til lately that we'd become real close. I resented many of his methods. Because he was my brother I expected more from him and was often disappointed. But now we're very comfortable with each other. I accept him for what he is.

LH: A scoundrel?

RG: (laughs) Yeah, a little bit of a scoundrel. Jimmy is one of the smartest men wrestling today. Remember, neither of us are very big; Jimmy is smaller than I am. But his brain compensates for his lack of size.

LH: How do you compensate?

RG: I don't. I hit 'em with my best and hope it works. It's really very simple.

(Continued on page 64)

THE VIDEOTAPE EVENT OF THE YEAR!



Slant-Eyed Slaughter

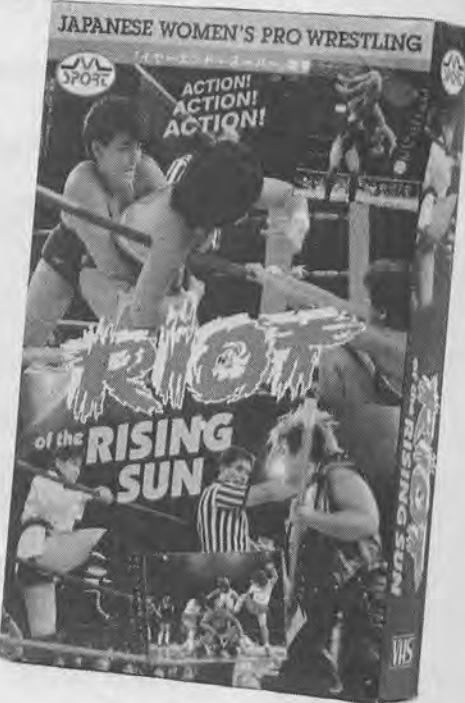
(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Wendi Richter & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura
- Nancy Kumi vs. Lucy Kayama
- Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi Hagiwara
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Tarantula
- "Crush Girl" Lioness Asuka vs. "Crush Girl" Chigusa Nagayo

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Riot Of The Rising Sun

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Yukari Omori & Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori vs. Norio Tateno & Itsuki Yamasaki—"The Jumping Bomb Angels"
- Masked You & Kaoru "Dump" Matsumoto vs. Lioness Asuka & Chigusa Nagayo—"The Crush Girls"
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Las Galactia
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. "Devil" Masami

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SPECIAL NOTE: These tapes, distributed by Powersports Video in association with American Video, are being sold exclusively for a limited time only in the United States by T.V. Sports. Both tapes include English play-by-play commentary recorded alongside the original Japanese commentary and crowd noise. While the English commentary is poor, the action level and match quality of these bouts more than makes up for it. We're convinced you'll be completely satisfied by these programs.

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NEWS FROM THE

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571

ERIE, PA By Mark Redfield

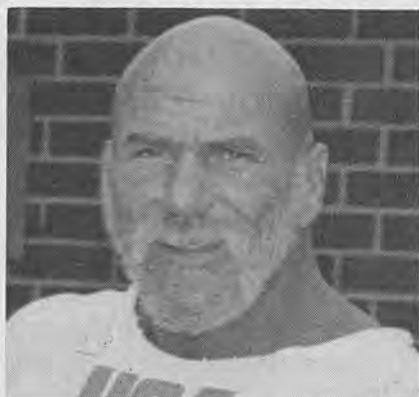


RANDY SAVAGE
vs.
ONE MAN GANG



In the main event, Randy "Macho Man" Savage took on One Man Gang, with George "The Animal" Steele serving as special guest referee. Gang and Savage pounded away viciously at each other for several minutes until Gang brought in a chair. While Steele tried to get the chair away from Gang, Savage climbed to the top rope. The "Macho Man" dove on Gang and pinned him—with some help from a fast count by Steele. **OTHER BOUTS:** Ted DiBiase beat Tito Santana (after the bout, DiBiase gave a girl \$300 to kiss his foot) . . . Junkyard Dog defeated Cowboy Ron Bass by DQ . . . S.D. Jones pinned Terry Gibbs . . . Chavo Guerrero defeated Frenchy Martin . . . David Sammartino and Jose Estrada wrestled to a draw.

SEATTLE, WA By Coleen Keating



SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
vs.
HARLEY RACE



It was a battle of former champions as Superstar Billy Graham went up against "The King" Harley Race. To prevent interference, Bobby Heenan was handcuffed to Ken Patera at ringside. As the match started, Superstar gained the immediate upper hand. Race never had a chance. Graham had Race in a sleeperhold, but Race broke it. Then Graham wore down Race with a bearhug and pinned him.

OTHER BOUTS: Billy Jack Haynes and "The Natural" Butch Reed wrestled to a draw . . . Greg Valentine & Dino Bravo defeated Jacques & Raymond Rougeau . . . Killer Khan beat George Steele by DQ . . . Rick Rude pinned Outback Jack . . . Magnificent Muraco defeated Cowboy Bob Orton.

BOSTON, MA By Dan Gritti



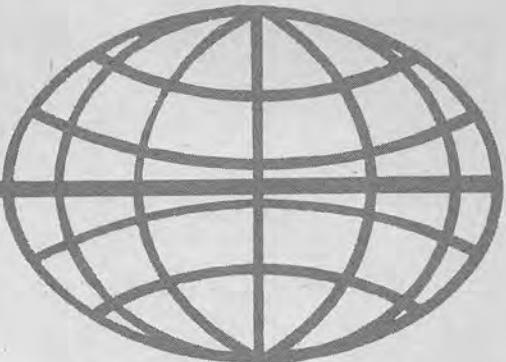
BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
vs.
TED DiBIASE



This match started off with DiBiase offering Beefcake \$500 to leave the arena. Beefcake then hit DiBiase, picked up the money, and handed it out to the crowd. Beefcake took the early advantage and held it through most of the match. He threw DiBiase into the ropes, but when Beefcake rebounded he was tripped by Virgil. Beefcake then went after Virgil, but DiBiase came up from behind and caught him in a reverse cradle to capture the victory.

OTHER BOUTS: Hulk Hogan defeated Killer Khan . . . George Steele and Harley Race fought to a double-DQ . . . Hercules Hernandez beat Davey Boy Smith . . . The Hart Foundation downed Sika & Mr. Fuji . . . Pete Doherty defeated Lanny Poffo . . . Steve Lombardi pinned Siva Afi.

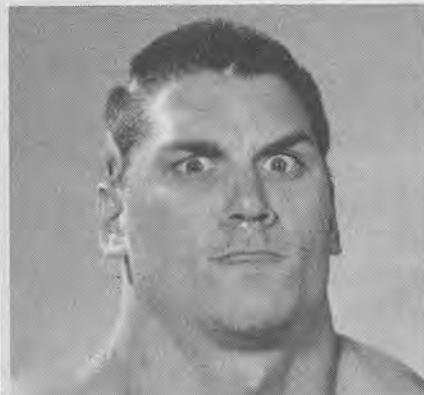
WRESTLING CAPITALS



PHILADELPHIA, PA
By Byron L. Smith



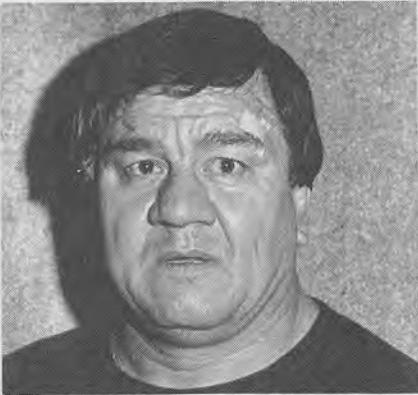
JIMMY VALIANT
vs.
SEAN ROYAL



Sean Royal entered the ring first and looked on as "The Boogie Woogie Man" entered to the cheers of the crowd. Royal took control of the match early by putting Valiant in a bearhug. Valiant escaped the hold, then put Royal in a full-nelson. When Royal finally broke out of this hold, they exchanged kicks and punches. The match ended when Sean staggered Valiant and was then disqualified for throwing him over the top rope.

OTHER BOUTS: The Road Warriors beat Konga the Barbarian & Ivan Koloff ... Nikita Koloff & Barry Windham lost to the Midnight Express by DQ ... Lazor-Tron defeated Gladiator II ... The M.O.D. Squad beat Mark Fleming & Denny Brown ... Steve Williams defeated Big Bubba Rogers.

LAS VEGAS, NV
By Ray Wilschek



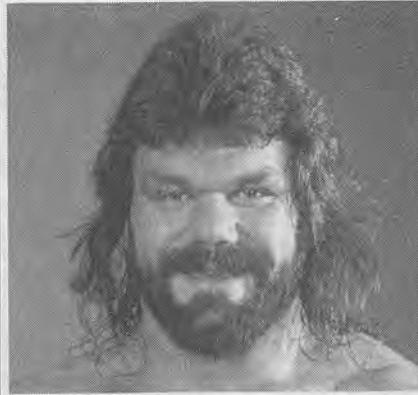
WAHOO McDANIEL
vs.
BORIS ZUKHOV



This Russian chain match saw both men take tremendous amounts of punishment as they attempted to drag each other around the ring to the four ringposts. Zukhov took control early, bloodying McDaniel with the chain and gaining a strong advantage. But Wahoo came back with a series of chops before going to work on Zukhov with the chain. Both men were covered with blood by the time McDaniel succeeded in wearing down Zukhov enough to drag him to the four posts and score the win.

OTHER BOUTS: Curt Henning retained his AWA title by DQ over Greg Gagne ... Steve O pinned Soldat Ustinov ... The Midnight Express beat J.T. Southern & D.J. Peterson ... Scott LeDoux beat Larry Zybsko.

DETROIT, MI
By Ross Devereaux



STEVE WILLIAMS
vs.
BIG BUBBA ROGERS



This UWF title bout proved to be a classic clash of power against power. Williams caught Rogers with a forearm off the ropes, but Bubba recovered with some well-placed kicks and punches. "Dr. Death" then caught Bubba with two backdrops before slamming him. Williams followed up with shoulder tackles and then corralled Bubba with a perfectly executed "Oklahoma stampede." **OTHER BOUTS:** Ronnie Garvin pinned Ric Flair to capture the NWA World heavyweight title ... The Road Warriors & Dusty Rhodes beat Tully Blanchard, Arn Anderson & Lex Luger ... Nikita Koloff defeated Ivan Koloff ... Sting defeated Eddie Gilbert ... Barry Windham beat Rick Steiner ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat The Midnight Express by DQ.



Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

ST. MAARTEN, THE VIRGIN ISLANDS: Some vacation. Stu Saks called in early September to tell me that Bill Apter was going down to the Caribbean, where the annual NWA convention was being held and a pack of officials and wrestlers were taking a few days off courtesy of Jim Crockett Promotions. Saks said Apter was going to shoot photographs of the wrestlers on vacation and he wanted me down there to provide a journalist's point of view. The only catch was that neither Apter nor the wrestlers were supposed to know I was there; good ol' Matt was under orders to stay in the background. So how about this: I spent five days at the Mullet Bay Resort in St. Maarten, wrestlers and great stories all around me, and I couldn't talk to anyone. I still have no idea why Saks wanted me to go down here. Maybe to check on Apter. Well, his wife has nothing to worry about. Apter spent more time with Dusty Rhodes and Nikita Koloff than Fallen Angel or Missy Hyatt. There's no accounting for taste. Anyway, seeing the wrestlers having a good time on vacation was very refreshing, and all the big names were there: Rhodes, Koloff, Barry Windham, The Road Warriors, Kevin Sullivan, Bobby Eaton, Ronnie Garvin, Jimmy Garvin, Ric Flair—too many names to mention, and all the wives and girlfriends, too. Crockett took great care to keep the rulebreakers and fan favorites apart, as they occupied two extreme areas of the resort. I'm just mad that I didn't get a chance to share their good time. Only once did I get within a few feet of the wrestlers, and it wasn't even a wrestler. Down in the hotel lobby on the last day, I was checking out and found myself standing next to Jim Cornette. Fortunately, I don't think he knew who I was.

DETROIT, MI: In 1987, this was the place to be if you're a wrestling fan. There was WrestleMania III back in March, with the Andre-Hogan match and 93,000-plus fans in the Pontiac Silverdome. Now the



RONNIE GARVIN

folks here in Motown had the opportunity to witness an NWA World title change. Ronnie Garvin, who's been knocking at the door for the past few months, finally did a number on Ric Flair and won the World championship. That vacation in the Virgin Islands didn't do much good for Flair, but it sure as hell must have revitalized "Hands Of Stone." Flair seemed to have it coming, though; he's held the title since August 1986, and holding it for so long, especially when you're defending the belt every night of the week, can really drain a man. Hogan knows nothing about that. Flair may be arrogant and he's definitely from the rulebreaker's school of wrestling, but you can't say that he's not a working champion. I think losing the belt might turn out good for Flair. It'll give him a chance to rest a little and maybe regroup. Garvin is a good wrestler, but he's not great, and I don't think he'll hold the belt very long. Besides, I think Flair's psyche was a little messed up by the mental double-team job Ron and Jim Garvin did on him. He's been uncharacteristically tense lately and I have a feeling that losing the belt will take a lot of pressure off him. We'll have to wait and see. But let me tell you one thing for certain: I'll be at Starrcade.

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

HOUSTON, TX: Nearly 12,000 fans and a whole host of names from the past came out to honor Paul Boesch here on August 28 and I'm proud to say that I was among them. The Sam Houston Coliseum is a stately old building, and it was appropriately the site of Boesch's retirement ceremonies. Better here than at one of those antiseptic modern arenas, because Paul is certainly an indelible part of wrestling history. He's been in the business in one way or another for the past 55 years; now that he's gone, I'm sure things won't be the same. Anyway, the WWF held a card in his honor, and I had the opportunity to see some guys I haven't seen in years,



PAUL BOESCH & FRIENDS

men like Danny McShane, Nick and Jerry Kozak, Jessie James, Tiger Conway, and Red Bastien. Verne Gagne, Lou Thesz, Jack Tunney, Gene Kiniski, and Arnold Skaaland were also there, among others. Even Mil Mascaras flew back into the states to wrestle on Paul's retirement card. All told, it was a festive evening and certainly much deserved. Boesch was a wrestler, promoter, announcer, writer, and goodwill ambassador for our beloved sport. He'll be missed, although I have a sneaking suspicion that he'll stay around the game in some way. Wrestling is too much a part of his life.

NEW YORK, NY: *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* has a special issue every March to honor the stars of the previous year, and one of the highlights is the set of achievement awards, which are chosen by fan ballot. I usually don't get too excited about these awards,



AUSTIN IDOL VS. JERRY LAWLER

but the previous year has been unusual for professional wrestling. I can almost feel a change taking place, although I'm not sure what it is. One thing's for sure, however: the NWA and WWF are getting much more powerful. Anyway, I have the room, so, for what it's worth, here are a veteran reporter's choices for the Achievement '87 Awards: Rookie of the Year—Owen Hart; Most Improved Wrestler of the Year—Lex Luger; Feud of the Year—Jerry Lawler vs. Austin Idol and Tommy Rich; Match of the Year—April 27: Lawler vs. Idol cage match. Tag Team of the Year—The Hart Foundation; Wrestler of the Year—Lex Luger. As an objective reporter, I'll reserve judgment on the Most Popular and Most Hated categories, and I don't have *any* opinion on Inspirational Wrestler of the Year. Wrestling is a great sport, but I've always looked upon wrestlers as sources of information, not inspiration. □

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



FALLEN ANGEL

Kevin Sullivan's former valet hasn't made a ring appearance in over a year, but still plays a large part in his career. Angel has planned training regimens for Sullivan in order to reduce his weight and tone his body. She's also trying to convince Sullivan to break ties with Dusty Rhodes. "I even set up a business meeting with J.J. Dillon," she said. "Maybe me and Kevin can get involved with The Four Horsemen."



PAT PATTERSON

He's still around, and if you attend WWF shows maybe you've seen him. Patterson's duties as an executive with the WWF require him to be around the ring at many arena cards. Patterson helps the WWF scout and sign new talent and also works as a matchmaker. But he's not spending all his time behind a desk. Patterson still dons the tights periodically—he's very popular in Canada—and occasionally does some TV commentating.



DICK SLATER

"The Rebel" is gone from the WWF, but not from wrestling. Slater is now wrestling on AWA shows in Georgia and is among the top names signed for the big battle royal planned for November in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is also negotiating

with promoters for a match against AWA World heavyweight champion Curt Hennig: "I have the experience and the ability and the skills to beat that young punk," said Slater. "Just give me a shot at the belt."



THE MISSING LINK

Link, a very weird but very popular former UWF star with very strange facial features, is wrestling all over the United States and Puerto Rico for various promotions. He's been in Texas for the new Wild West Wrestling Federation, Puerto Rico for the WWC, and New York for the NWF and USA promotions. In Puerto Rico, Link is feuding with former AWA champ Stan Hansen. Link is no longer associated with Dark Journey.

INSIDE WRESTLING

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CAPSULE PROFILE

BAM BAM BIGELOW could be the most agile man ever seen in his weight class: an impressive 6'3", 390 pounds ("Size and speed is an awesome combination") ... Became a bounty hunter at the age of 19 ("Dangerous work, but fun") ... Attended Larry Sharpe's "Monster Factory" wrestling school in Mount Laurel, New Jersey ("Larry and his men were great teachers, but I already had a lot of natural ability") ... Made his professional debut on August 23, 1985, at New York's famous Studio 54 nightclub, where he pinned four opponents in only 12 minutes ("Turned that disco upside down") ... With Sharpe as his manager, journeyed to the Mid-Southern area ("Had to show them what wrestling really is!") ... After defeating his opponents, sprayed them with red paint ("To show them what a bunch of rednecks they are") ... Feuded on and off with Jerry Lawler ("Lawler's not as great as he thinks he is") ... Twice won the Mid-Southern championship ("Natural ability, a natural champion") ... In September 1986, changed his name to Crusher Yurkof and adopted a pro-Soviet ideology ("Seemed like a good thing to do at the time") ... Won the World Class television title from Steve Simpson ("Simpson? What a wimp!") ... Lost the belt to Tony Atlas ("He has mus-

BAM BAM BIGELOW

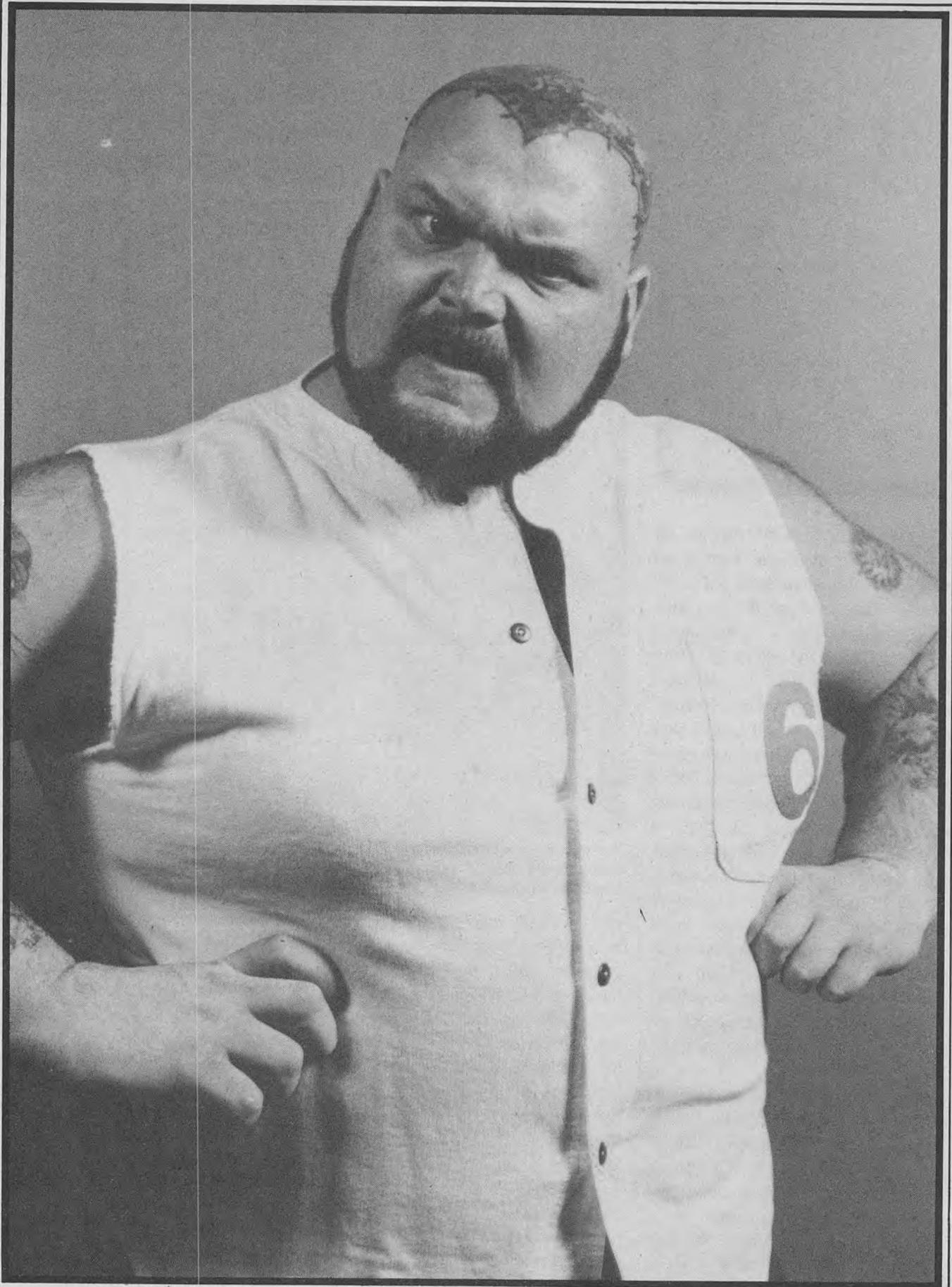


Bam Bam Bigelow dropkicks Chris Youngblood. For a man of his size, Bigelow displays excellent agility and scientific skills. Those abilities will be tested severely as Bigelow and his manager Oliver Humperdink take on the WWF's meanest rulebreakers.

cles, but not much else") ... Went back to being Bam Bam Bigelow ("Everybody makes mistakes") ... Returned to the Mid-Southern area, without Sharpe ("Managers can get in the way sometimes") ... Aided Lawler in his feud with Tommy Rich and Austin Idol ("The guy deserved help. Double-teaming doesn't cut it") ... Fined \$5,000 when he and Lawler rammed Rich's groin into the ringpost ("It was sweet revenge. Rich did the same thing to Lawler") ... Suspended when he refused to pay the fine ("Five thousand dollars? No way!") ... Wrestled in Japan ("They appreciate a superstar when they see one") ... His anticipated arrival in the WWF sent managers there scurrying for his services ("They

all wanted a piece of wrestling's hottest property") ... Rejected them all and, in a shocking move, chose Oliver Humperdink, who had moved to the WWF from Florida ("Humperdink is a manager of champions") ... Immediately became embroiled in a feud with Nikolai Volkoff and his manager Slick, who believed he had Bigelow's contract ("That big, dumb Russian and his slimeball manager were messing with the wrong man") ... Made quick work of Volkoff in a televised match ("If this is the best Russia has to offer, they're in trouble") ... With Humperdink guiding him, Bigelow has a promising future as a major WWF star ("Bam Bam Bigelow will be the next WWF World champion, no doubt") □

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



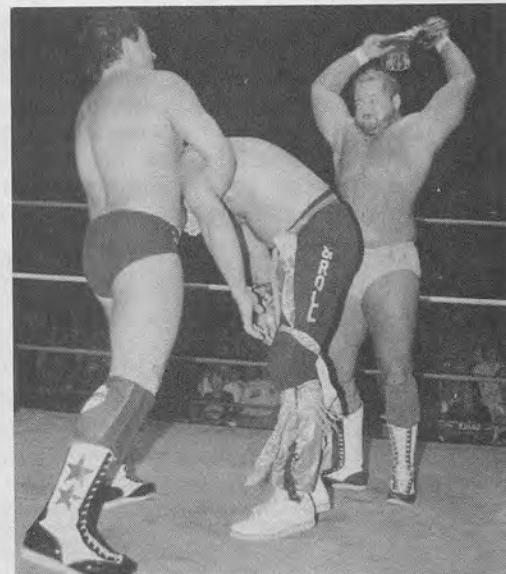
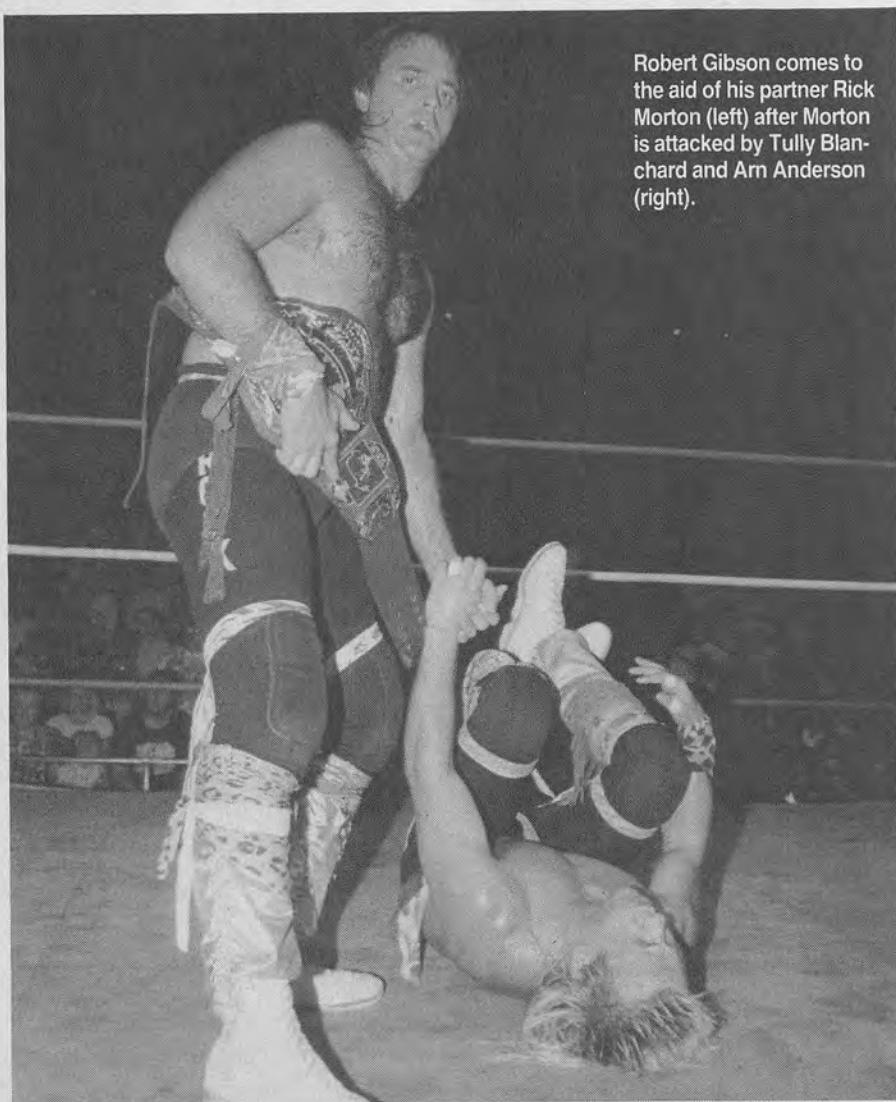
BAM BAM BIGELOW

WARNING

To The Rock 'n' Roll Express:

YOU CAN'T TAKE ON THE FOUR HORSEMEN ALONE!

Robert Gibson comes to the aid of his partner Rick Morton (left) after Morton is attacked by Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson (right).



A RUGGED EVENING of partying was winding down for Rick Morton and Robert Gibson, although the sun rising slowly above the modest skyline of downtown Richmond, Virginia, meant that most people were getting ready to wake up. The Rock 'n' Roll Express said goodbye to the last of their departing guests, then looked around at the mess that was the living room of their hotel suite.

"Why don't we just forget this for now and catch some Z's," said Morton. "Besides, don't we have a

The Rock 'n' Roll Express is in the midst of its fourth and most impressive NWA World tag team title reign. But if Rick Morton and Robert Gibson are to hold off the challenge of The Four Horsemen, they'd better get some help!



Tough times for Morton as Anderson gives him a gourdbuster (above), and Blanchard rams him into the ring barrier (right), then tosses him over the top rope (below). For months, the two Horsemen have been the top contenders for The Rock 'n' Roll Express' NWA World tag team title.



match tonight?" Gibson, lying on the couch with one shoe off and one shoe on, his crumpled shirt half-buttoned, semiconsciously nodded. "Ah, what the heck," mumbled Morton, "I'm hitting the sack."

It was 6:30 a.m. on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. Just hours later, a limousine would pull up in front of the hotel and The Rock 'n' Roll Express would be off to the airport for a brief flight to Atlanta and the

taping of *World Championship Wrestling* at the WTBS studios. Then, after very little sleep and a lot of traveling, Morton and Gibson would head off to the airport for a flight to Philadelphia, where another NWA card was being held.

The previous night was a good one for The Rock 'n' Roll Express, thus the party. Morton and Gibson, the NWA World tag team champions, had retained their belts by de-

feating the number-one contenders to the throne, Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson, when Morton pinned Blanchard. In Philadelphia, the Rock 'n' Rolls would take on the same team with the title on the line once again. But could they possibly be ready for this test?

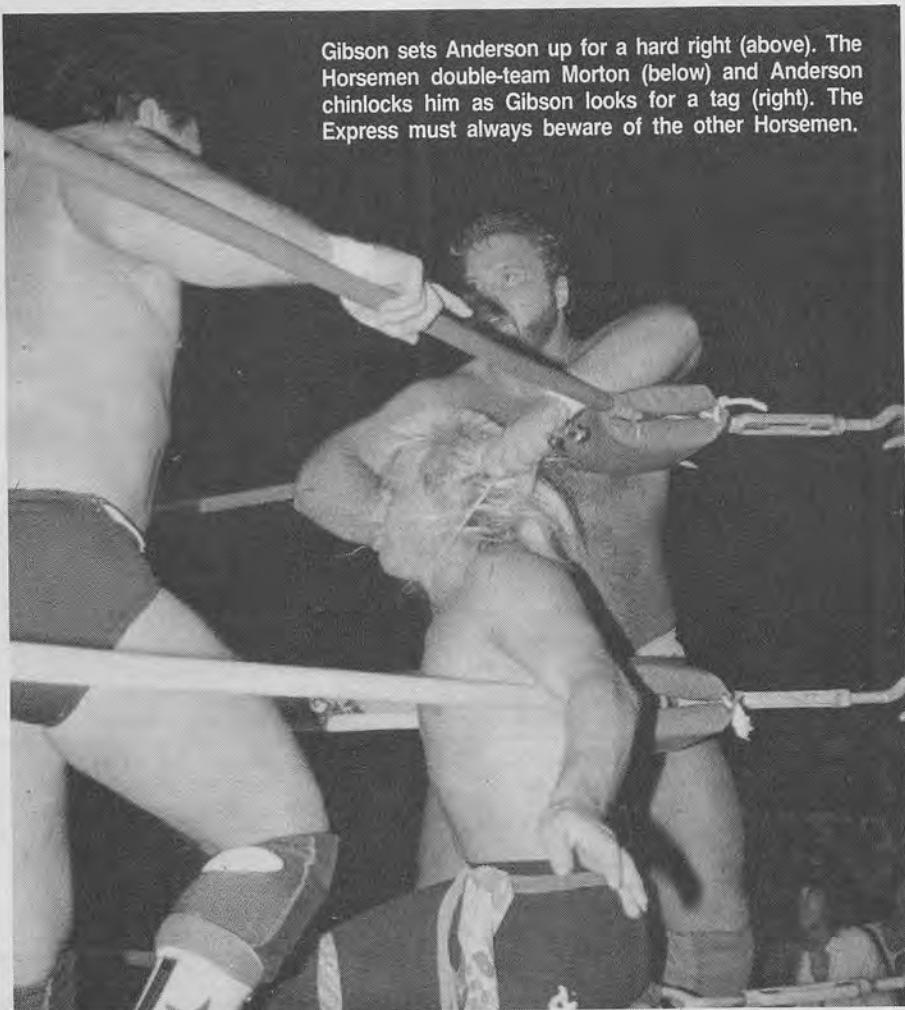
"We'll be ready," Morton told a crowd of reporters as he walked out of the hotel. "Me and Robert are used to this kind of schedule, so it's not gonna bother us at all. Besides, we thrive on partying and we love to have a good time, so we're much readier than we would've been had we gone right to sleep. We're young. We've gotta enjoy life and our championship, right brother?" Gibson agreed.

Morton was right. The Rock 'n' Roll Express was more than ready for its match in Philadelphia. In fact, Morton and Gibson wrestled even better that Saturday night than they did in Richmond. In an outstanding battle between two of the finest teams in wrestling, Morton and Gibson held off an all-out assault by the Horsemen before Morton finally pinned Blanchard.

That match left no doubt that



Gibson sets Anderson up for a hard right (above). The Horsemen double-team Morton (below) and Anderson chinlocks him as Gibson looks for a tag (right). The Express must always beware of the other Horsemen.



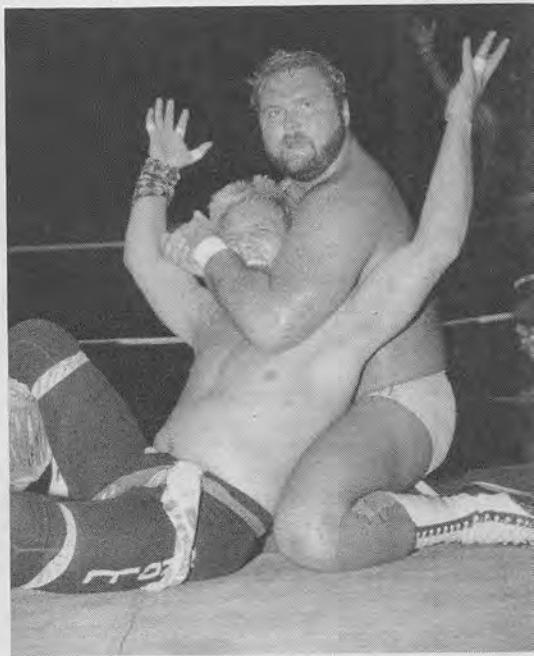
Morton and Gibson know what they can get away with. They obviously know their limits. Besides, partying for Morton and Gibson has nothing to do with drugs and alcohol. "No way," said Morton. "Maybe once in a while I'll have a glass of chilled red wine with a delicious steak dinner,

but when we party we dance all night, eat good food, and drink non-alcoholic beverages. Don't forget—we're in training."

But Morton and Gibson have other problems. Although they defeated their primary challengers on consecutive nights, it has become obvious

that Blanchard and Anderson won't go away. "We're dead set on taking that title from Morton and Gibson," said Blanchard, "and we'll do everything we can to get it. We'll stop at nothing."

And to Blanchard and Anderson, stopping at nothing means bringing Lex Luger, Ric Flair, and J.J. Dillon into the fray, making this a five-on-two situation that could very well mean the end of The Rock 'n' Roll Express' fourth title reign. What Morton and Gibson do in their own time is nobody's business, but The Four Horsemen are ready to bring the party to an end. Morton and Gibson need help.



"Gibson and Morton seem to be living in this perfect world where nothing can touch them," said *Inside Wrestling* Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks, "but nothing could be further from the truth. The longer they hold on to the belts, the more opponents will do to hurt them. Right now, it looks like Tully and Arn are trying to win the belts fairly, but if that doesn't work, they'll call for help. And I'll tell you, there's no way Morton and Gibson will be able to hold them off on their own."

Who can help? Dusty Rhodes has stated many times that he's always available to aid any wrestler or tag team under assault from the hated

(Continued on page 52)

INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- 1—HULK HOGAN
305, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—RONNIE GARVIN
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 3—RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

- 4—LEX LUGER
268, Chicago, IL
- 5—STEVE WILLIAMS
265, Norman, OK
- 6—BARRY WINDHAM
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 7—NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia

- 8—CURT HENNIG
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 9—RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL
- 10—AL PEREZ
238, Tampa, FL
- 11—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX

- 12—THE HONKY TONK MAN
255, Memphis, TN
- 13—JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN
- 14—MIKE ROTUNDO
245, Syracuse, NY
- 15—KEVIN VON ERICH
235, Denton, TX

NWA

- 1—RONNIE GARVIN
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 2—RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 3—LEX LUGER
268, Chicago, IL

- 4—NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia
- 5—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX
- 6—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX
- 7—BARRY WINDHAM
236, Sweetwater, TX

- 8—BUBBA ROGERS
348, Louisville, KY
- 9—JIM GARVIN
235, Tampa, FL
- 10—MIKE ROTUNDO
245, Syracuse, NY
- 11—CARLOS COLON
246, Bayamon, Puerto Rico

- 12—MICHAEL HAYES
255, Atlanta, GA
- 13—DORY FUNK JR.
240, Amarillo, TX
- 14—IVAN KOLOFF
240, Moscow, Russia
- 15—MIKE MILLER
265, New Orleans, LA

AWA

- 1—CURT HENNIG
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—GREG GAGNE
220, Robbinsdale, MN
- 3—WAHOO McDANIEL
260, Midland, TX

- 4—NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 5—TOMMY RICH
242, Hendersonville, TN
- 6—JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN
- 7—LARRY ZBYSZKO
248, Pittsburgh, PA

- 8—KEVIN KELLY
271, Oakland, CA
- 9—D.J. PETERSON
245, St. Joseph, MO
- 10—ADRIAN ADONIS
312, New York, NY
- 11—BUDDY LANDELL
236, Los Angeles, CA

- 12—SOLDAT USTINOV
260, Leningrad, Russia
- 13—JEFF JARRETT
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 14—BORIS ZUKHOV
254, Leningrad, Russia
- 15—JERRY BLACKWELL
474, Stone Mountain, GA

WWF

- 1—HULK HOGAN
305, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—THE HONKY TONK MAN
255, Memphis, TN
- 3—RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL

- 4—ONE MAN GANG
468, Chicago, IL
- 5—TED DIBIASE
247, Omaha, NB
- 6—BAM BAM BIGELOW
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 7—RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN

- 8—BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
273, San Francisco, CA
- 9—PAUL ORNDORFF
253, Brandon, FL
- 10—RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI
- 11—JUNKYARD DOG
260, New Orleans, LA

- 12—KING KONG BUNDY
446, Atlantic City, NJ
- 13—BUTCH REED
255, Kansas City, MO
- 14—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
260, Paradise Valley, AZ
- 15—HARLEY RACE
258, Kansas City, MO

MOST POPULAR

- 1—HULK HOGAN
305, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX
- 3—RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL

- 4—STEVE WILLIAMS
265, Norman, OK
- 5—RONNIE GARVIN
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 6—NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia
- 7—BARRY WINDHAM
236, Sweetwater, TX

- 8—BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
273, San Francisco, CA
- 9—KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX
- 10—JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN
- 11—RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI

- 12—GEORGE STEELE
288, Detroit, MI
- 13—JIM GARVIN
235, Tampa, FL
- 14—MIKE ROTUNDO
245, Syracuse, NY
- 15—HACKSAW DUGGAN
275, Glens Falls, NY

MOST HATED

- 1—THE HONKY TONK MAN
255, Memphis, TN
- 2—LEX LUGER
268, Chicago, IL
- 3—RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

- 4—TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX
- 5—LARRY ZBYSZKO
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 6—CURT HENNIG
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 7—TED DIBIASE
247, Omaha, NB

- 8—ONE MAN GANG
468, Chicago, IL
- 9—AL PEREZ
238, Tampa, FL
- 10—TERRY TAYLOR
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 11—RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN

- 12—EDDIE GILBERT
222, Lexington, TN
- 13—BRICKHOUSE BROWN
225, Winter Haven, FL
- 14—KEVIN KELLY
271, Oakland, CA
- 15—BIG BUBBA ROGERS
348, Louisville, KY

TAG TEAMS

- 1—THE ROAD WARRIORS
No. 1 contenders to NWA World tag team title
- 2—BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART
WWF World tag team champions
- 3—TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON
NWA World tag team champions
- 4—BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE
U.S. tag team champions
- 5—RICK MARTEL & TITO SANTANA
No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title

- 6—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS
No. 2 contenders to NWA World tag team title
- 7—THE BRITISH BULLDOGS
No. 2 contenders to WWF World tag team title
- 8—TIM HORNER & BRAD ARMSTRONG
UWF tag team champions
- 9—SHAUN & STEVE SIMPSON
World Class tag team champions
- 10—DINO BRAVO & GREG VALENTINE
No. 3 contenders to WWF tag team title

- 11—DENNIS CONDREY & RANDY ROSE
No. 1 contenders to AWA tag team title
- 12—STEVE KEIRN & MIKE GRAHAM
No. 1 contenders to Florida tag team title
- 13—ROBERT FULLER & JIMMY GOLDEN
Southeast Continental tag team champions
- 14—BRUCE HART & BRIAN PILLMAN
Calgary International tag team champions
- 15—THE BATTEN TWINS
Central States tag team champions

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended September 30, 1987

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALABAMA CHAMPION: THE BULLET

(June 22, 1987; from Mike Golden; Birmingham, AL)

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TAKASHI ISHIKAWA & MIGHTY INOUÉ

(July 30, 1987; tournament final over Isamu Teranishi & Masanobu Kurusu; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(October 21, 1986; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROAD WARRIORS

(March 12, 1987; from Jumbo Tsuruta & Genichiro Tenryū; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI

(January 3, 1987; from Kuniaki Kobayashi; Tokyo)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: GENICHIRO TENRYŪ

(April 26, 1986; tournament final over Ted DiBiase; Omiya, Japan)

ALL-PACIFIC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: LELANI KAI

(August 21, 1986; from Chika; Tokyo, Japan)

* AWA INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: BILL DUNDEE

(August 31, 1987; from George Barnes; Memphis, TN)

AWA INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: ROCKY JOHNSON & BILL DUNDEE

(July 6, 1987; from Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond; Memphis, TN)

* AWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER

(August 31, 1987; from Don Bass; Memphis, TN)

* AWA SOUTHERN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE RPMs

(September 19, 1987; from The Nasty Boys; Memphis, TN)

AWA WORLD CHAMPION: CURT HENNIG

(May 2, 1987; from Nick Bockwinkel; San Francisco, CA)

AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BORIS ZUKHOV & SOLDAT USTINOV

(May 25, 1987; from The Midnight Rockers; Lake Tahoe, NV)

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION: GAMA SINGH

(August 7, 1987; from Owen Hart; Calgary, Alberta)

* CENTRAL STATES CHAMPION: EARTHQUAKE FERRIS

(September 27, 1987; from Rufus R. Jones; Des Moines, IA)

CENTRAL STATES TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRAD & BART BATTEN

(August 6, 1987; result of special stipulation match victory of Brad Batten over Bobby Jaggers; Kansas City, KS)

ENGLISH MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPION: FLYING FUJI YAMATA

(March 3, 1987; from The Black Tiger; Croydon, England)

FLORIDA CHAMPION: MIKE ROTUNDO

(April 18, 1987; over Sir Oliver Humperdink; Lakeland, FL)

* FLORIDA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MIGHTY YANKEES

(September 8, 1987; from Steve Keim & Mike Graham; Tampa, FL)

INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING GRAND PRIX CHAMPION: ANTONIO INOKI

(June 19, 1986; tournament final over Dick Murdoch; Tokyo, Japan)

* IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

YOSHIAKI FUJIWARA & KAZUO YAMAZAKI

(September 1, 1987; from Akira Maeda & Nobuhiko Takada; Fukuoka, Japan)

IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: KUNIYAKI KOBAYASHI

(August 20, 1987; tournament final over Nobuhiko Takada; Tokyo, Japan)

JAPANESE WOMEN'S CHAMPION: YUKARI OMORI

(August 23, 1986; from Devil Masami; Kawasaki, Japan)

JAPANESE WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: KZUE NAGAHORI & UMY MIOGURA

(April 27, 1987; from Yumiko Hotta & Hisako Uno; Tokyo, Japan)

* MID-AMERICA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JEFF JARRETT

(September 14, 1987; from Carl Fergie; Memphis, TN)

NWA JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: LAZOR-TRON

(March 7, 1987; from Denny Brown; Atlanta, GA)

NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROAD WARRIORS & DUSTY RHODES

(May 17, 1986; from Ivan & Nikita Koloff and Baron Von Raschke; Baltimore)

NWA TV CHAMPION: NIKITA KOLOFF

(August 17, 1987; from Tully Blanchard; Fayetteville, NC)

* NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RONNIE GARVIN

(September 25, 1987; from Ric Flair; Detroit, MI)

* NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON

(September 29, 1987; from The Rock 'n' Roll Express; Misenheimer, NC)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: MIKE MILLER

(June 27, 1987; from Rip Oliver; Portland, OR)

* PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SUPER NINJA & JOEY JACKSON

(As of September 18, 1987, Jackson replaces Rip Oliver as Ninja's partner)

PWF CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN

(April 24, 1987; tournament final over Hiroshi Wajima; Yokohama, Japan)

* PWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: GENICHIRO TENRYŪ & ASHURA HARA

(September 3, 1987; from Stan Hansen & Austin Idol; Nagoya, Japan)

SOUTHEAST CHAMPION: DUTCH MANTEL

(April 13, 1987; from Exotic Adrian Street; Birmingham, AL)

SOUTHEAST CONTINENTAL CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Wendell Cooley)

SOUTHEAST CONTINENTAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

ROBERT FULLER & JIMMY GOLDEN

(May 25, 1987; from Jerry Stubbs & Tony Anthony; Birmingham, AL)

* SOUTHEAST U.S. JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: LARRY HAMILTON

(September 7, 1987; from Scott Armstrong; Birmingham, AL)

STAMPEDE NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP: OWEN HART

(April 10, 1987; from Makhan Singh; Calgary, Alberta)

STAMPEDE INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

BRUCE HART & BRIAN PILLMAN

(April 6, 1987; tournament final over Ron Starr & Cuban Assassin; Calgary, Alberta)

TENNESSEE HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE: DOUG FURNAS

(July 17, 1987; tournament final over Tony Anthony; Knoxville, TN)

U.S. CHAMPION: LEX LUGER

(July 11, 1987; from Nikita Koloff; Greensboro, NC)

U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS

(May 16, 1987; tournament final over Barry Windham & Ronnie Garvin)

UWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DIAMOND TIMOTHY FLOWERS

(April 3, 1987; from Billy Two Eagles; Vancouver, British Columbia)

UWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: J.R. BUNDY & RICK DAVIS

(May 9, 1987; from Jonathan Sayer & Diamond Timothy Flowers; Vancouver, British Columbia)

UWF HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: STEVE WILLIAMS

(July 11, 1987; from Big Bubba Rogers; Oklahoma City)

UWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRAD ARMSTRONG & TIM HORNER

(May 17, 1987; from Sting & Rick Steiner; Tulsa, OK)

* UWF TV CHAMPION: TERRY TAYLOR

(September 2, 1987; from Shane Douglas; Lafayette, LA)

WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: AL PEREZ

(August 21, 1987; default decision over Kevin Von Erich; Dallas, TX)

* WORLD CLASS JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY

(September 13, 1987; from Peter Vander Gralin; Durban, South Africa)

WORLD CLASS SIX-MAN CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Kevin, Lance, and Mike Von Erich)

WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE & SHAUN SIMPSON

(August 7, 1987; from Eric Embry & Frankie Lancaster; Ft. Worth, TX)

WORLD CLASS TV CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS

(May 22, 1987; reinstated by World Class officials)

* WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: TED ARCDI

(August 31, 1987; battle royal victory; Ft. Worth, TX)

WORLD CLASS TEXAS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SKIP YOUNG & TONY ATLAS

(June 29, 1987; tournament final over Ted Arcidi & Texas Red; Ft. Worth, TX)

WORLD PACIFIC CHAMPION: SUPERFLY TUI

(April 11, 1987; from Super Machine I; Honolulu, HI)

WORLD PACIFIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: FARMER BOY IPO & LEROY BROWN

(August 9, 1986; from Mad Max & Super Max; Honolulu, HI)

WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: SHERRI MARTEL

(July 24, 1987; from Fabulous Moolah; Houston, TX)

WORLD WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LELANI KAI & JUDY MARTIN

(August 1985; from Desiree Petersen & Velvet McIntyre; Egypt)

* WWC JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: HURRICANE CASTILLO

(September 20, 1987; from El Gran Mendoza; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: TNT

(May 16, 1987; from Miguel Perez Jr.; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

WWC NORTH AMERICAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE HUNTERS

(June 20, 1987; from Tony Atlas & Miguel Perez Jr.; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: KAREEM MUHAMMAD

(June 6, 1987; from Mighty Igor; Juaynabo, Puerto Rico)

* WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: CHRIS & MARY YOUNGBLOOD

(September 20, 1987; from The Hunters; Ponce, Puerto Rico)

* WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON

(September 20, 1987; from Hercules Ayala; Ponce, Puerto Rico)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: THE HONKY TONK MAN

(June 2, 1987; from Rick Steamboat; Buffalo, NY)

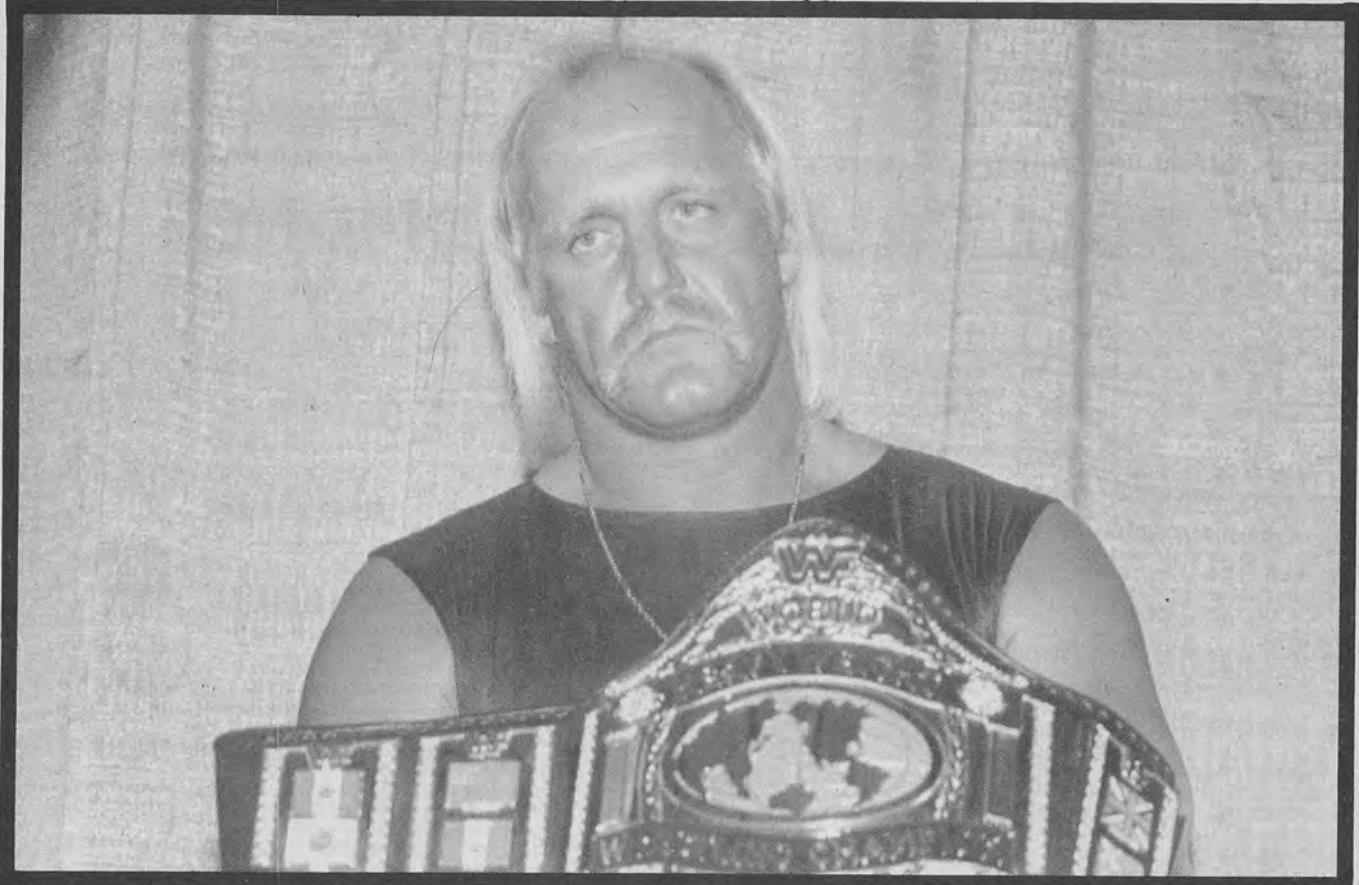
WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN

(January 23, 1984; from The Iron Sheik; New York, NY)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART

(January 26, 1987; from The British Bulldogs; Tampa, FL)

IS HULK HOGAN BORED



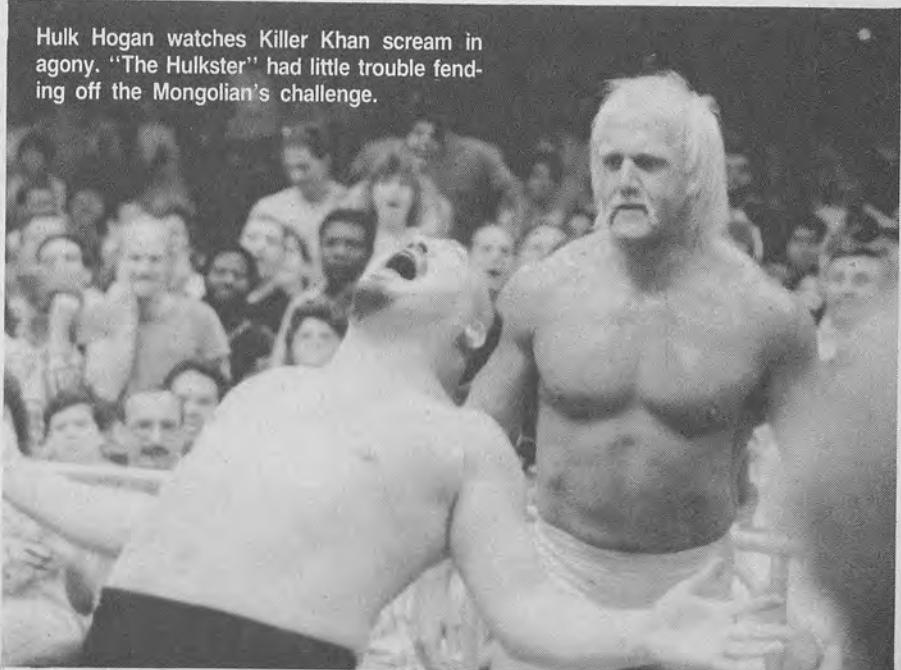
WITH THE WWF TITLE?

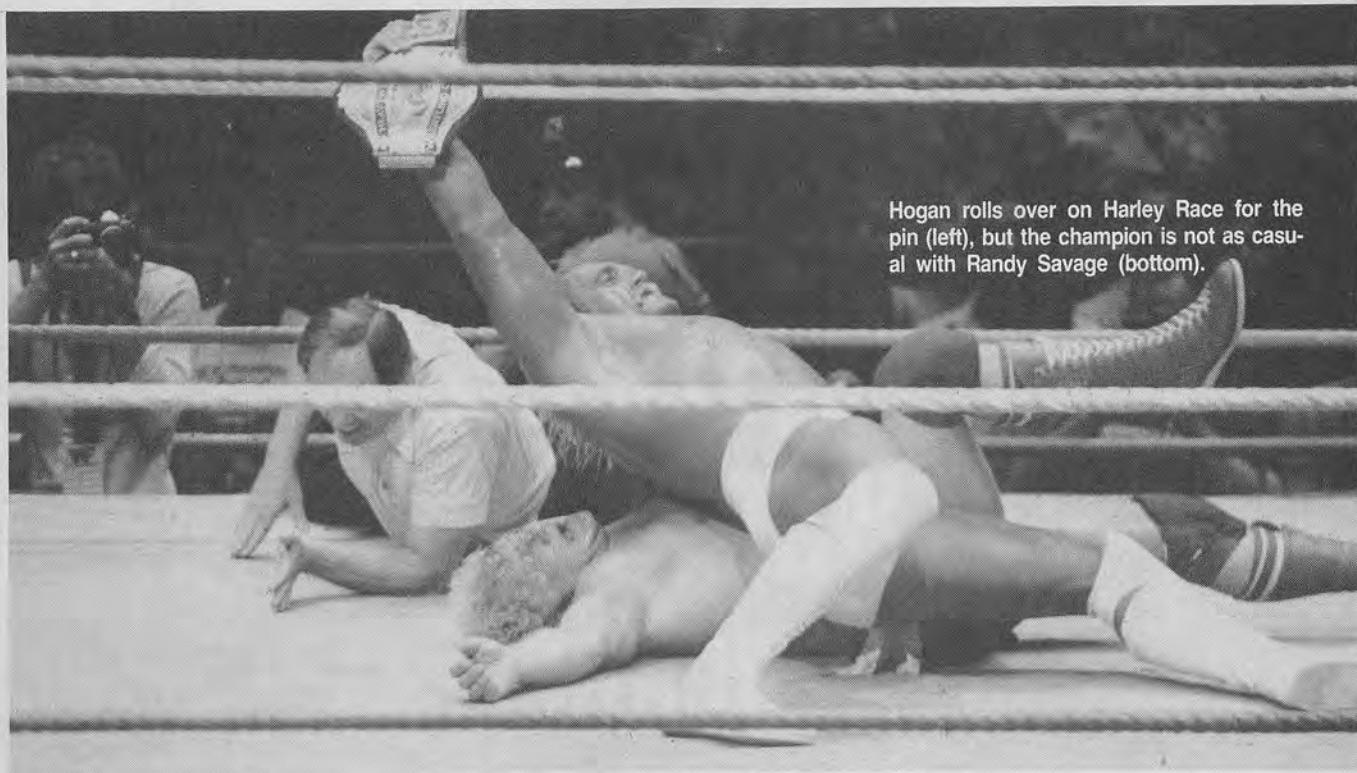
KILLER KHAN . . . Harley Race . . . One Man Gang. Ho hum. It's all in a day's work for Hulk Hogan, now in his 48th month as WWF World heavyweight champion—and his 10th month of absolute boredom.

Isn't there *anybody* around here who can give Hogan a challenging match?

The last time Hogan was seriously challenged for the belt was March 29 at WrestleMania III, when Andre the Giant came within a split-second of winning the World title but finally succumbed after a 12-minute war. It was the most testing match of Hogan's title reign and ended with his most impressive feat: an incredible body-

Hulk Hogan watches Killer Khan scream in agony. "The Hulkster" had little trouble fending off the Mongolian's challenge.





Hogan rolls over on Harley Race for the pin (left), but the champion is not as casual with Randy Savage (bottom).

He's already defeated some of the finest wrestlers in the world, including Andre the Giant at WrestleMania III. And now Hulk Hogan is discovering that defending the World title isn't all fun and games. Sometimes, in fact, it can be a real chore

slam of the 525-pound Andre that sent thunderous shock waves through the Pontiac Silverdome.

But Andre, having finally been granted what he always wanted (a shot at the World title), went into hiding immediately following that match; he resurfaced on interviews at the end of the summer, but has apparently retired from wrestling for the time being. And although Hogan at first was shocked and hurt by Andre's challenge, he now yearns for the kind of test that only this legendary giant can give him.

Yes, folks, the WWF champion is bored defending one of the most important heavyweight titles in the world, a belt that has been worn by wrestling legends such as Bruno Sammartino, Ivan Koloff, and Bob Backlund. Could it be that Hogan has reached the end of his

(Continued on page 48)



NWA Title Turmoil:

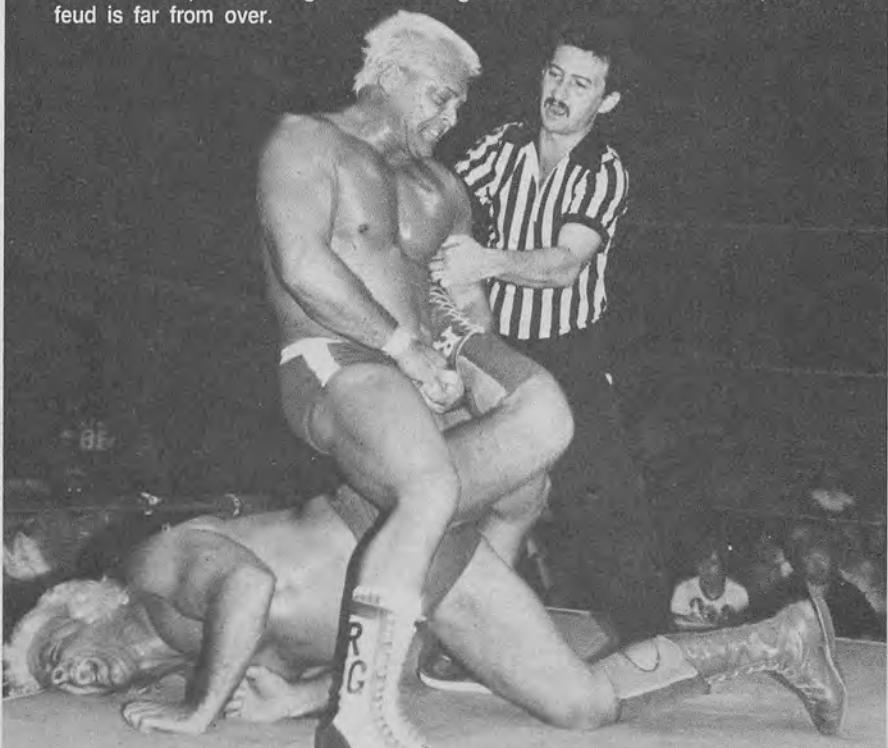
RIC FLAIR & RONNIE GARVIN MUST SETTLE THEIR WAR AT STARRCADE!

RIC FLAIR WAS in an absolute rage. "Dammit! Where's Garvin? I'll take him! I'll tear him up! I'll rip the punk's face off! Where is he?"

"Whoa! Calm down, champ," Lex Luger said. "Don't let him get to you. He's not worth the trouble. We'll get him soon enough. Don't worry."

It was a strange sight: the young lion counseling the seasoned veteran. But this was a strange situation. After holding the NWA World championship since August 9, 1986, Flair had just lost his prized title to Ronnie Garvin in a cage match at the Joe Louis Arena in Detroit. Flair's fourth title had come to a stunning conclusion. And of all the things that Ronnie Garvin has done to Flair—breaking up his "dream date" with Precious, taunting him on national

The referee instructs Ronnie Garvin to break his leghold on Ric Flair. Although Garvin accomplished his goal of defeating Flair for the NWA World title, their feud is far from over.



For more than half a year, fans have thrilled to the series of awesome battles between Ric Flair and Ronnie Garvin for the NWA World title. It is a war that threatens to drag on and on, unless it is ended in an extraordinary manner. The chance for that extraordinary ending is coming—at Starrcade '87!



Garvin pounds Flair into the turnbuckle (left). Flair aims Garvin at the ringpost (above). Flair struggles to resist Garvin's attempted sunset flip (bottom left). If Flair and Garvin can end their feud at Starrcade, they may be able to get their careers back on a steady course.

television, pinning him when Flair interfered in one of his matches—taking away the World championship belt stung the most.

"You'd better leave now," Tully Blanchard told the reporters who had gathered for the postmatch post mortem. "The champ has some thinking to do, and I don't think he feels much like talking."

Flair's hot dispute with the Garvins, especially Ronnie, has been well-documented. A somewhat normal feud with a top contender turned into a war of passion, jealousy, and revenge. Simply put, Flair hates Garvin and Garvin hates Flair. But it's more complex than that, especially now that Garvin has the title.

"Ric is obsessed with putting Garvin out of the sport," Blanchard said. "Not just hurting him, I mean

putting him out *permanently*. Garvin's humiliated him one time too many. Look at how many of the Horsemen's matches Garvin's interfered in. If that wasn't enough, they cheat Ric out of a date with Precious. They've pushed Ric to the limit, and Ric Flair is one man you don't want to push that far. I have pity for Ron Garvin."

But Ron Garvin has no pity for Flair. Neither does his brother Jimmy nor Jimmy's valet, Precious. Having seen Flair save his title by disqualification or the interference of The Four Horsemen too many times, Ronnie looked forward to the cage match as a chance to settle matters one-on-one with no outsiders at ring-side. But after winning the belt, Ronnie realized that the feud had only

(Continued on page 54)



HOTSEAT

ADRIAN ADONIS

"I WANT TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY!"

SEVEN YEARS AGO, an exciting young wrestler burst upon the wrestling scene in the AWA. His name was Adrian Adonis, and he displayed a remarkable combination of New York street toughness and pure wrestling skill. Agile and energetic, Adonis became an immediate force to be reckoned with in the AWA.

Adonis soon teamed with Jesse "The Body" Ventura, and the duo—Adonis from New York and Ventura from California—became known as The East-West Connection. The combination were awarded the AWA World tag team belts by default in July 1980, but proved their mettle as champions through mid-1981. A second world tag team title would later come Adonis' way as he teamed with Dick Murdoch in the WWF to capture the World tag team belts on April 17, 1984; they would hold the title until January 21, 1985.

Adonis switched to solo wrestling under the management of Bobby Heenan, and shortly thereafter "came out of the closet" under the management of Jimmy Hart. Over the next two years, his waistline swelled to monstrous size, a trend that has not shown any signs of reversal.

When Adonis' "Flower Shop" segment replaced Roddy Piper's "Piper's Pit" on WWF broadcasts, a feud ensued that ultimately caused Adonis to flee the WWF—but not before being defeated by Piper at WrestleMania III in March.

Adonis now finds himself back in the AWA, where he is managed by Paul E. Dangerously. Embroiled in a

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This is the **real** me. I've been able to get in touch with a part of me I never knew existed. I feel fulfilled in ways I'd never known before.

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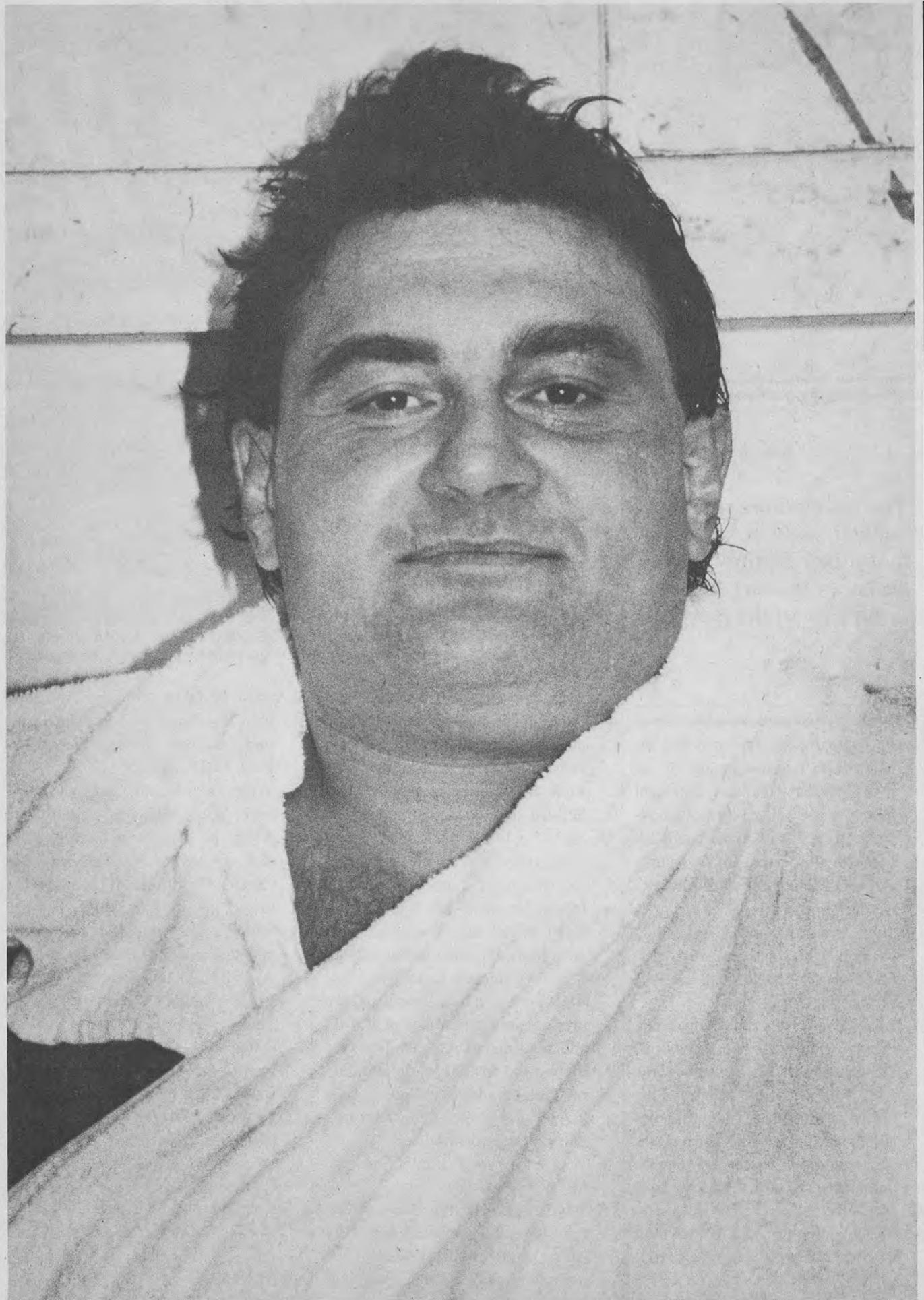
feud with Tommy Rich, and now weighing in at well over 320 pounds, Adonis retains the attitudes, if not the physique, of a championship wrestler. Senior Editor Bill Apter recently caught up with Adonis between matches in Las Vegas.

Q: Well, Adrian, thanks for taking the time out to talk. This is the first interview I've done with you in some time. You know, I've been following you since your rookie year, and I'm—well, I'm amazed at a lot of changes in you over the past few years. Your change in, uh, attitude, and the change in your physique. I can't help thinking that your extra weight's got to hurt you in the ring.

A: Are you kidding? I'm in the best shape of my life! There's no move I can't do better now than when I was 20 years old! The added weight just gives me more power, and makes my elbowsmashes and bodyslams all the more effective. My increased power just makes my attack that much more dangerous.

Q: Well, speaking of "attack," how do you justify your attack on Tommy Rich while he had Tommy Stone in the figure-four leglock?

A: A stupid question, even from you, Bill, but I'll give you an answer anyway. There is no more stupid or pathetic sight in wrestling today than that Tommy Rich, Paul E. [Dangerously] and I feel it is necessary to drive him out of the sport





“

There is no more stupid or pathetic sight in wrestling today than Tommy Rich. I feel it is necessary to drive him out of the sport.

”

once and for all. The man had the audacity to interfere in one of my matches when I had my opponent in the sleeperhold. It was "Goodnight Irene" for him, but Rich tried to attack me, and I simply will never stand for cowardly tactics like that.

Q: Then why didn't you do something when he came out, instead of letting Dangerously just pull you out of the ring?

A: Aha! You just cannot appreciate the young genius that is Paul E. Dangerously. If you remember correctly, he tried to manage Rich down in Memphis, and he knows all about that clown's weaknesses and stupidities. Weakness number one is a very short attention span.

Q: Meaning that?

A: Meaning that we just waited until the time was right. About a week went by, and Rich must have forgotten all about the whole affair.



Adrian Adonis puts Art Washington out with his "Goodnight Irene" sleeperhold. Paul E. Dangerously, Adonis' manager, has instigated a feud between Adonis and Tommy Rich, whom he once managed.

And sure enough, when Rich had Stone in the figure-four, we saw a perfect opportunity to attack. While Paul distracted the referee, I went in and elbowsmashed that hayseed into unconsciousness.

Q: As far as I'm concerned, the whole affair was absolutely disgraceful. Don't you have any regrets?

A: It was beautiful! He had the audacity to call me a sissy. Me, Adrian Adonis, the most stylish wrestler who ever donned pink tights! So, while he was still in dreamland, we dressed him up in a nice pink dress and made up that pretty boy face of his. But instead of appreciating our fashion advice, he took it badly. Not only is he an idiot, but he's got no taste to boot!

Q: Your attack on Rich didn't go over too well with the fans.

A: Who cares? The fans have shown that they can't appreciate my style, culture, and breeding. What's important is showing that even if I don't fit their stereotypes, that I

must be taken seriously. And any man like Tommy Rich, who turns down a chance to be managed by Paul E. Dangerously . . .

Q: What are you talking about?

A: Sure! When Paul first came to the AWA, he thought he'd try to give that washed-up hayseed one last chance. He offered Rich a chance to be the third member of The Midnight Express! But Rich told him that his mama said he had to "do right by the fans this time," so he couldn't be managed by Paul. So who's the sissy—a mama's boy like him or a real man such as myself who does what he wants, when he wants, with whom he wants, and doesn't give a hoot about the fans?

Q: Some fans would laugh if they heard you calling yourself a "real man." I mean, there was a time when you wore leather instead of pink scarves, when you lived in the streets of New York City. Now you look like you took a walk to

San Francisco and never looked back.

A: You know, Apter, you're not as dumb as you look. This is the *real* me. I've been able to get in touch with a part of me I never knew existed. I feel fulfilled in ways I'd never known before. My decision to "come out of the closet" in the WWF was a great day for myself and for anyone else who feels they don't have to go by what the rest of the hideous unwashed masses are thinking.

Q: Oh, please, do you really think that there are very many fans out there who want to use you as a role model?

A: Hey—people can think what they want of me, but they can't deny all the success I've had throughout my career. I'm still quicker than guys who are half my size, and I'm 10 times a better wrestler. There's no move that I can't do, from the abdominal stretch to the sleeper-hold. I've got energy and peace of mind. I've held two world tag team titles. I drove Roddy Piper out of wrestling. Now I'm back in the AWA, and I want to be taken seriously. I ought to be taken seriously. But people are stupid, they're blinded by style and have no concept of what real substance is.

Q: Did you know that both your ex-partners won't comment on their past association with you? I think they both think you've made a lot of bad moves since you've split with them.

A: Let Jesse [Ventura] and [Dick] Murdoch think what they want. I got tired of carrying them in the ring. It's strictly singles from now on.

Q: Why is that? Is it too tough to find willing tag team partners?

A: Not at all. In fact, Paul's phone has been ringing off the hook with requests from other wrestlers who want to team with me. They're always impressed with me. I'm rarely impressed by them. I don't think I'll be tag teaming in the near future.

Q: So what's your game plan in the AWA?

A: Like I said, I want to be taken seriously. I want to put Tommy Rich out of the sport for good. I want to get rid of that bloated excuse for an athlete known as Wahoo McDaniel. I want to tear through the ranks here, give everyone beatings and wrestling lessons at the same time, then set my sights on the heavyweight championship. Then the people will be forced to give me my just due.

Q: And what exactly is your just due? How would you like to go down in wrestling history?

A: I'd like to be remembered as the most complete wrestler who ever stepped into the ring. A man who



Adonis, his ample girth quite evident, rubs Lance Allen's head on the ropes. Adonis insists that, rather than hindering him, the extra weight actually makes him a better wrestler by adding power to his moves.

could—and has—done it all, inside and outside the ring. A man who always did it his own way, and never tried to please anyone else. A man who opponents feared to step into the ring with. A man who has constantly proved the critics wrong. And a man whose taste is impeccable.

Q: I guess history will judge that, Adrian, but getting back to—I mean, let's be honest. You're bigger than I've ever seen you. Don't you think you should shed just a



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People can think what they want of me, but they can't deny all the success I've had throughout my career.

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few pounds?

A: Go ahead, say it again. You think I'm overweight. Actually, I couldn't feel better. Look at the sumo wrestlers over in Japan. They're huge, mean, and can't be knocked off their feet. If I went over and studied sumo, I'd be considered a lightweight. So actually, I could get even bigger!

Q: But pro wrestling isn't sumo wrestling. If you get knocked off your feet or out of the ring, the match goes on.

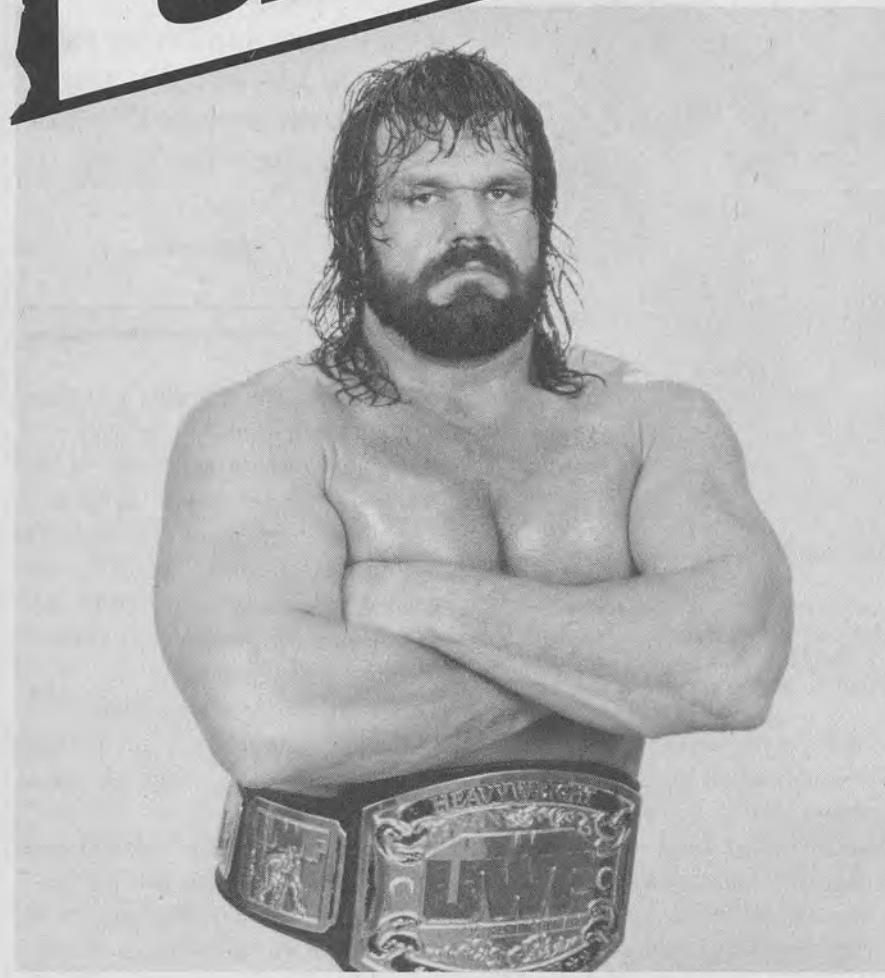
A: That's true, but who said anyone's going to knock me off my feet? And even if it does happen, I'm up again before my opponent realizes it. There's no man alive who can put me down for good!

Q: I think we'll end things on that note. Here's to bigger and better things, Adrian, and I thank you for this interview.

A: I thank myself. □

Deathgrip On The UWF Title:

STEVE WILLIAMS LOOKS FOR A CHALLENGE!



STEVE WILLIAMS SAT in the back of the press room waiting impatiently for the last of the reporters to filter in. His massive, bearded face expressed unrelieved boredom and a mild contempt for what he knew would shortly transpire.

"How did you feel out there tonight Steve?"

"Good. Real good."

"Steve, did you feel your UWF title was in jeopardy tonight?"

"Nope."

"Did Gilbert do anything that surprised you?"

"Nope."

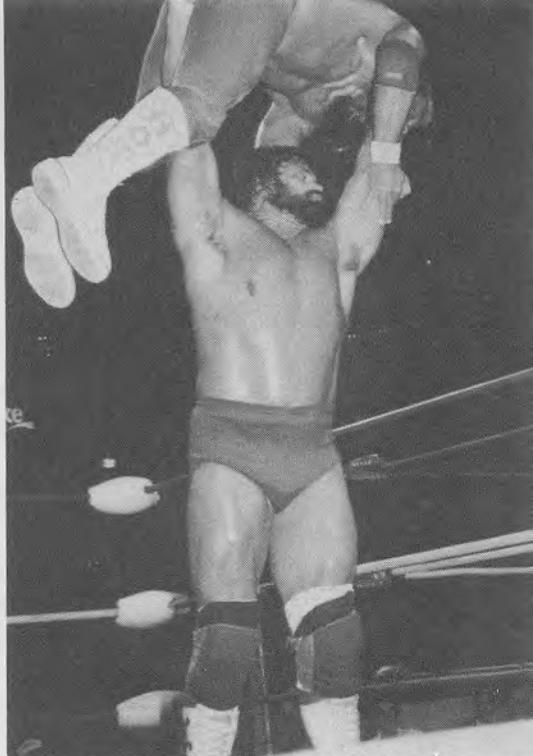
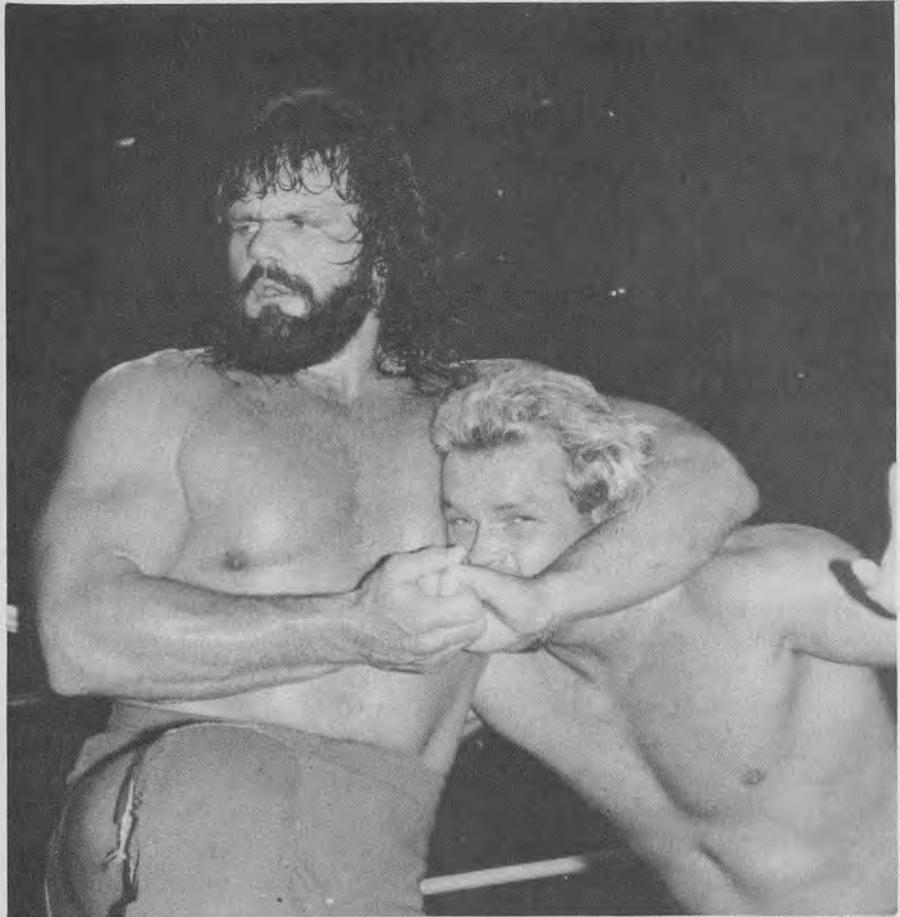
"What was the turning point of the match?"

Here, Williams allowed for almost 30 seconds of thought. "*The turning point?*" he repeated, then paused again before answering.

"The turning point was when I found out I was wrestling Eddie Gilbert tonight. I knew the match was over before it started."

The questions continued. Williams had a slightly more difficult time staying awake through the in-

In his quest for the UWF title, Steve "Dr. Death" Williams has survived serious injuries, fan abuse, and vicious attacks. In his drive to remain champion, can he survive unrelenting boredom?



UWF champion Steve Williams headlocks Eddie Gilbert (left), sets him up for a press slam (above), and whips him across the ring (bottom). Although he respects Gilbert's wrestling ability, "Dr. Death" is confident he'll never lose to him. That's why he's looking for newer, tougher competition.



terview than he did in his match an hour earlier against Eddie Gilbert. There, before thousands of screaming fans, Williams had retained his UWF crown, dispatching Gilbert in roughly 12 minutes. Yawn.

Steve Williams is not the world's greatest wrestler, and Eddie Gilbert is not the world's worst. Yet the pair have become unlikely bedfellows in a tired bedtime tale. Gilbert is unable to defeat Williams no matter how often they wrestle—and, because of unimaginative promoting and shrewd contract negotiations on the part of Gilbert, they wrestle often.

And Williams is bored.

"Bored might not be the right word," Williams says. "Look, the second I drop my guard against Eddie Gilbert, he'll quicker than hell take my title. And that's not gonna happen. We could wrestle 10, 50, 100 times, and I *still* won't lose. But I don't want to wrestle him 100 times. I'm hungry for some other competition."

Williams judiciously avoids using the word "real" when describing



the kind of competition he seeks, although members of his camp agree that "real competition" is precisely what he means.

"Steve has Gilbert wrapped around his finger," one friend says. "It's like getting paid to beat up your sister. Steve has real designs on the NWA title. He wants to wrestle more NWA grapplers and

Gilbert smacks Williams into the ropes (top) and turns a headlock into a pin attempt (below). Williams says he looks forward to facing some NWA competition for his belt, but he may antagonize some UWF grapplers who think they're more worthy of consideration.

get on with his career. The UWF belt is beginning to suffocate him."

Is this the same Steve Williams who a month ago was hailing the UWF title as the crowning achievement of his career?

"Of course it is," he explains. "This belt will always have a special place in my heart. Anyone's first major title is important. It's a steppingstone. It confirms your belief in your own abilities. But it's nothing to dwell upon. The day after you win it, it becomes yesterday's success."

"As a professional wrestler, you must *constantly* test yourself. It's the only way to improve. I've become stagnant. I want to move on. I need other challenges."

An agreement between the NWA and UWF, which will allow both federations to easily sign bouts involving each other's talent rosters, should expedite Williams' wishes. A glance at the NWA talent roster quickens Williams' pulse.

"Luger. Blanchard. The Road Warriors. Flair." He practically drools. "Let me at 'em. Especially

Flair. I've wanted a piece of him for some time now. I know lots of people think I should wait and stay put. Bull! I'm in the best shape of my career. I'm ready for anything! I'm sick of the boredom."

"Boredom? Boredom?" Eddie Gilbert is outraged. "Is he kidding? Williams cheats his ugly face off to steal our match and suddenly he's too good for the UWF? Let me tell you something, that big Okie thinks he's a whole side better than he really is. Suddenly the fans start cheering for him and he thinks he's the last word on professional wrestling."

"But Williams is in for a very rude awakening," Gilbert continued. "From me. From the Freebirds. From a lot of others. We'd all be too happy to send him packing. Let's just see what Flair and The Four Horsemen do to him. They'll wrap him into a pretzel. Williams is nothing but an overrated football player. And he's gonna be dead meat—very, very soon."

Upon hearing Gilbert's threats, Steve Williams barely reacts. "Tough talk from someone who can barely last 10 minutes in the ring with me. Actually, though, I've been getting a similar reaction from other wrestlers. Barry Windham once told me to be careful about making my career aspirations public. He said there's nothing wrong with wanting a world title, but you don't want to insult the wrestlers in your area."

"I told him that if you're gonna worry about hurting people's feelings, then you're in the wrong business. I go out and do my job. I think I do about as good as anyone in the world. When I say I want competition, it means I want to wrestle the best in the world. If people can't handle that, or if they get offended, to hell with them. I'm not in this sport to make friends. I'm here to win. I'm here to be the best I can be."

"And that sure won't happen if I keep wrestling chumps like Eddie Gilbert."





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The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

REATIONS BETWEEN THE United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran have deteriorated to the point where both countries seem to be spoiling for a fight. But even if all remains quiet in the Persian Gulf, two men who represent the best and worst of both countries have already resumed their epic clash in the squared circle.

There is no doubt that the long-simmering feud between The Iron Sheik and Sgt. Slaughter that began in the WWF in 1983 is among the most famous in wrestling history. It was a highly symbolic war that stretched far beyond the confines of the ring. More than just a question of individual achievement, national pride was at stake each time these giants clashed.

Since his departure from the WWF in 1984, Slaughter has been campaigning in the sport's more remote outposts. He's also been busy reaping the financial rewards of his celebrity status through a variety of promotional appearances.

The Sheik continued to wreak havoc in the WWF until he was suspended following an arrest for alleged cocaine possession in May. Soon, Sheik found himself moving in the same circles as Slaughter, and a clash seemed inevitable. Indeed, it was: the Deep South promotion had arranged for the two to square off in a late-September match in Marietta, Georgia, and it now seems that one of the most heralded feuds in wrestling history will be reborn. The Inside Wrestling staff wasted little time in having Sheik and Slaughter square off over the phone lines—"One on One."

ONE O



"Now that I have another chance to stand tall for America against scum like you, you can bet that you'll want out of wrestling for good when I get through with you."

—Sgt. Slaughter

SGT. SLAUGHTER:

Well, you Iranian maggot, it seems like fate has decreed that we meet again, and nothing could make me happier. Just as my country is about to give yours the beating it so richly deserves, I get to give my fellow Americans a preview of what a beaten Iranian looks like.

IRON SHEIK:

Ha! You learn nothing in years past about yourself or your weak country. I no fear you, and number one Iran does not fear big-talking Americans. You are both soft—you always busy opening silly shopping malls where overfed, underworked Americans buy silly watches and scanty clothes that if worn in Iran would result in proper whipping. So I no fear you, and my countrymen no fear

people who care only about VCR and MTV, people who do not know how to work, and who are not ready to bleed for their worthless country.

SS: You're wrong. I've bled for this country, and I'm ready to die for it, either in the ring against you or leading the charge against the Ayatollah's palace. And the American people would be right behind me in both those acts.

IS: Hahaha! You make me laugh again. American people would sit home and not support you. Americans do nothing that requires courage and sacrifice, like young Iranian heroes who clear minefields for Ayatollah in Gulf War. They will sit home, drink beer, and buy video to watch during football strike. They may feel sorry for you getting beaten by

N ONE



"Maybe I get you in camel clutch and not let go until your head come off in my hands. Then I send to Ayatollah for gift for him to hang on palace wall."

—The Iron Sheik

Sheik, but they do nothing that make them get out of armchair. Americans so soft, I almost feel sorry for you.

SS: Save your pity. America doesn't need it. This country is the best in the world, and just because Americans know how to enjoy life doesn't mean we won't fight for our national pride. Just as you've made me proud to fight for my country, Iran, where there is no freedom, has given Americans a look at the dark side of life. And Americans will fight to retain their freedom.

IS: Oh yes, Americans all stand in line to join Army and fight Iranians if war breaks out. Just like they do in Vietnam, when they stand on line to burn draft cards. I spit on your country, but sometimes I have to wait few moments

because real Americans beat me to it.

SS: You maggot! I wish I could wrap my hands around your neck right now! I don't know who I hate more, you or the small number of disloyal Americans who give people like you the wrong impression. Believe me, the American people know that there's no sense getting into a fight unless you're going to win. And don't think we've forgotten the hostages you hold, and all the other ways your country has injured us. I don't know who's in more trouble now—you or the Ayatollah.

IS: Ayatollah and I both doing fine. He live to be 100 as his spiritual guidance make Iran into earthly paradise. And I plan to be top wrestler in world for long, long time. Ayatollah—number one! He

give me strength and inspiration to beat all Americans, not just you!

SS: You know, if you like Iran so much, why don't you put your body where your mouth is and join up against Iraq? It seems your country's losing the will to fight.

IS: Ha! No such luck for you, Slaughter Sergeant. Brave Iranian martyrs not need my help to beat Iraq, which is weak like America. No, my job here is more important. When I beat Americans on TV, all Americans watch on TV become sick to their weak stomachs, realize they can never beat Iranians, so they not bother—just like in Vietnam. I am here under direct orders of Ayatollah to show Americans they are better off not attacking Iran. My job is important because future of my nation depend on it. Otherwise I take first plane back to Tehran.

SS: Well, don't make those reservations just yet. I've got some unfinished business with you, scum. I still have a serious whipping I've got to put on you, and I think the time is about right to launch another attack against scum like you. I've battled anti-Americans all over the sport, but I've never met anyone who deserves to have the crap beaten out of them more than you. I've almost forgotten how good that feeling is.

IS: That means you also forget how bad I beat you. Funny thing about pain is that you cannot remember how it feels. You have to experience it again. I am looking forward to inflicting much pain upon your soft body. Maybe I get you in camel clutch and not let go until your head come off in my hands. Then I send to Ayatollah for gift for him to hang on palace wall.

SS: The only head that's going to roll is yours, you maggot. Over the past two years, I haven't forgotten for a second how much I hate you and all that you stand for. Now that I have another chance to stand tall for America against scum like you, you can bet that you'll want out of wrestling for good when I get through with you. □

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HULK HOGAN

(Continued from page 35)



Hogan contests a bloody cage match with Paul Orndorff (above). The feud with "Mr. Wonderful" may have been the most intense of Hogan's career. He hasn't recaptured that feeling wrestling One Man Gang, whom he headlocks (opposite page).

long list of challengers? Is Hulk Hogan too good for the WWF?

"I don't think so at all," said retired manager Capt. Lou Albano, who managed Koloff to the title and has 17 WWF tag team titles to his credit. "Hulk Hogan is an amazing individual, one of the greatest stars in history, in the universe, but he certainly isn't too good for the WWF. What we have right now is a lull, a slow period, just like we had an up period when men like Randy Savage, Paul Orndorff, and other stars were going after him. It'll pick up again because everybody wants a piece of that belt."

It should be pointed out, however, that while Hogan at first struggled against Savage and Orndorff, he eventually figured out a way to beat them. During his outstanding championship reign, Hogan has beaten some of the greatest stars in wrestling. So even if men with the ability of Savage or Orndorff

finally rise up to challenge Hogan, will they pose an interesting test? By comparison, matches against One Man Gang and Killer Khan are merely training sessions.

Where does that leave Hogan? Simply, waiting for Bigelow. Bam Bam Bigelow.

"That was realistic about a month ago," said veteran columnist Matt Brock, "but now it looks like Bigelow and his manager, Sir Oliver Humperdink, are fan favorites, which means he'll never get a shot at Hogan. Personally, I think Bigelow will eventually go back to his old rulebreaking ways—he's a mean sonofagun—but who knows when? Six months? A year? Two years?"

By that time, Hogan might be out of wrestling, bored to tears and headed for the bright lights of



Hollywood, or perhaps looking toward another federation for a new and different challenge. Sources close to the champion say that a match against NWA World champion Ric Flair has always appealed to him.

(Continued on page 50)

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HULK HOGAN

(Continued from page 49)

"He knows that it'll never happen, but everybody wonders how a Flair-Hogan match would turn out, including 'The Hulkster' himself," said our source. "Right now, I think he's thinking about it a lot more because of the matches he's been having. It takes a special type of wrestler to give Hogan a test, and while Khan and Gang are dangerous, they just don't fill the bill."

Fortunately, Hogan isn't bored with being in the spotlight. He loves hearing the cheers of the fans, loves posing for them in the middle of the ring, and still takes great pride keeping his body in outstanding condition. "The Hulkster" feels that he has a responsibility to all the little Hulkamaniacs, those devoted fans who feed off his every word. Hogan knows that in these troubled times of professional athletes abusing drugs and alcohol, he's a much-needed role model. Only his incredible dedication to the fans, and to the future of America's youth, can help get Hogan through this slow period.

Eventually, however, the need for a professional challenge will be overwhelming. The game has become much too easy for Hogan. Few of his matches last much longer than 10 minutes; many are shorter. Indeed, it often seems that Hogan's ring entrance and postmatch posedowns are longer than the matches themselves! Constantly bashing opponents can get tiresome after a while, although the fans seem to enjoy every precious minute of the action.

Another champion claims to know exactly how Hogan feels. "Being the greatest wrestler in all the world, 'The Nature Boy' was getting bored after a while beating Dusty Rhodes all the time," said NWA World champion Ric Flair, "but I found other things to keep



The champion rakes Kamala's eyes. Hogan tried to motivate himself by wearing war paint. The tactic worked, but how long can he rely on such gimmicks?

myself occupied, like tag team matches and working with The Four Horsemen. Then Barry Windham and Nikita Koloff finally showed up. I've taken complete care of them, but I have to admit that they were an enjoyable challenge for a few weeks. When you've achieved absolute greatness and perfection, stylin' and profilin', then dealing with mere mortals can get somewhat boring."

Perhaps that's where the problem lies. Hogan is not a mere mortal. He's not perceived as such by the fans, and no doubt he doesn't perceive himself as simply human either. Indeed, he seems to be several cuts above the typical wrestler, to transcend other human beings. He is a veritable superman whose only true challenge might come from another equally transcendent superman.

Wrestling has a lot of superstars, but very few supermen. Ultimately, boredom may in fact be Hogan's greatest—and most formidable—opponent. □

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ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS

(Continued from page 31)



Blanchard and Morton take their brawl out to the floor (above). Blanchard pushes Morton into the mat (below). If Morton and Gibson want to keep their title, they're going to need some outside help.



Horsemen. Nikita Koloff has become friends with Morton and Gibson, although he usually doesn't come to their parties. If the Rock 'n' Rolls decide to enlist their help, they should be able to hold off the Horsemen's vicious assault. But if they don't ...

Consider this: Each of the Rock 'n' Rolls' three previous title reigns have lasted less than three months. Each time, they've defended the title on their own with little outside help, while enemies assaulted them from

all sides. By any measure, the Rock 'n' Rolls have defended the tag team belts with honor. With the exception of their double-teaming tactics (which has become commonplace in tag team wrestling), Morton and Gibson have stuck to the rules of wrestling. Unfortunately, because of the prevailing atmosphere of villainous behavior in professional wrestling, an *honorable* title reign is usually a short title reign.

Nothing would be worse than to see the revered NWA World tag team title fall into the hands of men who use subversive means to achieve their goals. It would be another permanent blemish on professional wrestling. Rick Morton and Robert Gibson are role models to their millions of fans. They owe it to those fans, to themselves, and to the sport they love so much to hold off these criminals by getting help.

Before it's too late. □

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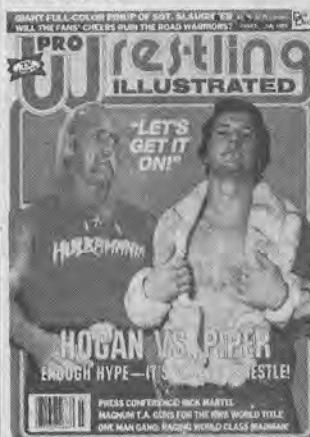
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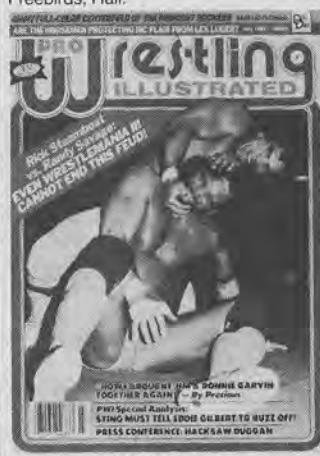
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FLAIR VS. GARVIN

(Continued from page 37)



begun.

"He's too much of a competitor and he's not gonna stop now just because he lost the belt," said Garvin. "In fact, it's just gonna make him work even harder. The way I see it, this feud's gonna go on forever, because we both want the belt and neither of us is gonna stop fighting until we own it."

What Garvin and Flair don't realize, however, is that the feud *must* end. It is the natural course of wrestling for all feuds to have a beginning and an end. Nothing goes on forever, but a feud *can* go on for a long, long time. If two men get bogged down with a feud for too long, it could threaten their careers, just like it did with Buzz Sawyer and Tommy Rich in the early 1980s.

Yes, the feud must be settled, and there's only one place to settle it: Starrcade '87, the NWA's annual Thanksgiving Day pro wrestling feast.

The biggest cards have a way of bringing out the best in wrestlers. The athletes realize that they're in the spotlight, being viewed by many thousands of people, and they try to show off their abilities in the best way possible. Nikita Koloff lost to Ric Flair in a brilliant duel at last year's Starrcade. Hulk Hogan and Andre

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Garvin biel-throws Flair (opposite page). Flair staggers from a Garvin blow (above). The Garvins have damaged Flair more psychologically than physically. The ex-champion has been known to act crazy sometimes, but the Garvins really sent him over the edge.

the Giant needed only one match to settle matters at WrestleMania III.

So it would be at Starrcade '87, where Ron Garvin and Ric Flair could settle things for good ... and for the good of wrestling.

Their long feud almost came to an end on August 30 at The Omni in Atlanta, when Flair pinned Ronnie. But videotape replays verified what Garvin and the fans in the arena already suspected: J.J. Dillon had held Garvin's feet on the ropes, giving Ronnie no chance to escape from the pin. At best, it was a tainted victory for Flair. In reality, it clouded the feud even further.

Flair, who takes pride in being an extremely levelheaded individual, has lost his cool in this instance.

"Nobody does to me what Ronnie Garvin's done," shouted Flair at an interview session prior to the match in Detroit. "I'm gonna show him tonight that to win the NWA World championship, you've gotta have something special, something deep inside, and he doesn't have it because he's never heard of character."

Garvin, however, thinks that it's Flair who doesn't have the proper character to be a world champion. "Everybody knows that Flair would've lost the belt a long time

ago if not for The Four Horsemen," said Ronnie. "You look at Flair's matches since he regained the belt from Dusty last summer and I'll bet that not more than 10 percent of those ended in a pin for Flair. He's saved his belt by disqualification so many times, it's incredible that he can still show his face around here."

A match at Starrcade would be the ultimate test for both men. It must be set up under conditions that would ensure a winner: no time limit, no disqualifications, no seconds allowed at ringside, and in a steel cage with no way out. The only way to win would be by pinfall or submission. That would be the ultimate test in wrestling, a test that only Starrcade could provide. And it must be their *final* meeting.

Starrcade is the NWA's annual World Series, a year-end event that ties together all the loose ends from the previous 12 months. The Starrcade spotlight always poses the ultimate test to a grappler. And though the greatest sports heroes of all time have been known to choke under such pressure, the time has come for Flair and Ron Garvin to shut up and put everything on the line.

The result will either prove Garvin the champion to carry the NWA into 1988, or reaffirm Flair's grasp on the number-one spot in the NWA. Starrcade beckons, and the future of wrestling awaits. □

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DRESSING ROOM

(Continued from page 10)

felt sorry for Savage. Now that the real Savage has come forward, will Honky Tonk be the next victim? Savage is no longer the evil man he used to be, and I have a feeling that Elizabeth won't stand for that too long. Maybe she'll dump him and start looking elsewhere.

Yes, The Honky Tonk Man is in love with Elizabeth. During recent matches against Savage, he's left the ring to go after Elizabeth. Have you noticed Honky Tonk's new hair style? Before long, he'll start wearing cologne into the ring. Maybe he'll even bring her flowers. Men can act like complete fools when they're in love.

I just hope it doesn't cost him the title, but I fear that it will. The Honky Tonk Man is at the peak of his career. His wrestling skills improve with every match. Honky Tonk is spending more time in the gym and even watches films of his opponents' matches. But which opponents? Which matches? Probably only those in which his beloved Elizabeth is at ringside.

Wrestling can sometimes tear your heart apart.

Ronnie Garvin is the new NWA World heavyweight champion. His



Elizabeth begs The Honky Tonk Man not to smash Randy Savage with his guitar.



While Jim Garvin and Precious are happy that Ronnie Garvin has won the NWA World title, they planned to win the belt long before Ronnie did. Dave Rosenbaum believes that Precious encouraged Jim to turn good so he'd get more title shots.

brother Jim Garvin has always wanted to wear the belt. When Jim came to Ron's rescue following the Jim Cornette fire-throwing incident, many insightful observers thought he only did it to make the fans start cheering him. For the most part, though, rulebreakers don't get a shot at a rule-breaking champion. As long as he stayed on the bad side, Jim Garvin would probably never get the chance to wrestle Ric Flair for the World title. A swing to fan favorite would give him more opportunities to wrestle for the belt.

And who was behind the change? None other than Precious, who made the quickest transformation to angel I've ever seen. It was never a secret that Precious disliked Ronnie. And vice versa. She was the main reason why the two brothers never got along. Precious is a smart lady, however, and she dreamed of the day when her man would win the title. If it meant putting up with Ronnie, the sacrifice was worthwhile.

So what happens now? Ronnie, not Jim, won the belt from Flair. Certainly that wasn't in Precious' plans. The way things stand, Jimmy will never get a shot at the

title. The NWA would never allow it. Besides, Jimmy wouldn't want it. After all, he loves his brother.

It's all over now. Precious will probably give Ronnie a few months to lose the belt. But if it doesn't happen by Starrcade, she'll start the ball rolling. Maybe Precious will convince Jimmy that Ronnie tried to make a move on her. Maybe she'll convince Jimmy that Ronnie, and not the NWA, is trying to keep him from title shots. What she'll use as a vehicle for her evil scheming is anybody's guess. The only certainty is that she'll eventually turn Jim against Ronnie.

Consider the examples of Honky Tonk Man and the Garvins.

Jealousy is too much a part of this sport. In a perfect world, wrestling would be a battle of two supremely talented athletes, each man trying to prove that he is better. The squared circle would be the scene of memorable sporting events, and at the end both men would shake hands because they both gave it their best. They're both at the top of their profession.

That's just not the way it is. Hearts can sometimes tear wrestling apart. □



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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 18)



Paul Orndorff broke with Bobby Heenan to win Hogan's friendship, but later turned on "The Hulkster" when his title hopes plummeted. Although Orndorff is once again a fan favorite, he has said nothing about Hogan.

very little left to live for.

It's not that I'm the world's greatest Randy Savage fan. I have a few problems with his style and his approach to the ring. I think he's lazy and irresponsible, a poor caretaker of his phenomenal talents. But I do admire his attitude. He has a strut and it screams: *I do what I want*. Bottom line. No subterfuge. Plus he's a little contemptuous of wrestling's hierarchy, intolerant of the bureaucratic monkeys in pinstripes who run the promotion. I love that.

Savage is the last person who'd ever befriend Hulk Hogan.

The problem isn't Savage any more than it was Paul Orndorff, Jake Roberts, Ken Patera, or any of the other "rulebreakers" whose hearts mysteriously softened. That foul, loathesome disease known as "Hulkamania" is the problem. The way Hogan wins converts reminds me of some giant, balding, radioactive Sun Myung Moon. "Come join the Hulk . . . be liked and cheered . . . and watch your

talents float down the sewer."

As a charismatic cult figure, Hulk Hogan is without peer. As long as he consorts with the Junkyard Dogs and the Rick Steamboats of the world, then there is no problem. But when men of character—Savage and Orndorff in particular—fall prey to his spell, then professional wrestling is in serious danger.

I realize that in the past several months my own position on Hogan has softened. On occasion I have lauded his contributions to the sport. His influence is as subtle as it is insidious. Let me spell out in no uncertain terms: Hulk Hogan is a plague. Like locusts and frogs and pestilence. If he isn't stopped, I see a world of Hulkamaniacs, a sea of balding children worshiping a man without soul or substance. Worshiping a man who, for a buck, would affix his name to anything.

For my sake, and for the sake of the sport, say it ain't so, Randy. Please, say it ain't so. □

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 6)

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Lex Luger bearhugs Dusty Rhodes, who's trying to win the U.S. title he's never held. Bill Walkowitz thinks "The Dream" will successfully reach his goal.

You can talk about it, Lex Luger, but Dusty is gonna start doing it. He may have flicked the switch, but you've ignited the fire. I hope that Dusty Rhodes wraps up "The Complete Package" and takes the U.S. title. It would be the perfect match—"The American Dream" and the U.S. title. That's the way it should be, and that's the way it's gonna be. Because that's what it's all about.

BILL M. WALKOWITZ
Chicago

NO HONKY TONK FAN

I'd like to take this opportunity to answer Dave Rosenbaum's question of what The Honky Tonk Man has done to earn the hatred of the fans in the WWF ("Behind The Dressing Room Door," October 1987).

(Continued on page 62)

THIS MONTH IN...



The Wrestler



An exclusive look at a rare unification bout as NWA TV champ **NIKITA KOLOFF** prepares to take on UWF TV champ **TERRY TAYLOR** at Starrcade '87!



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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 60)



The Von Erichs pose with the World Class six-man title trophy they won in 1984. Kim Allen believes that, despite all the setbacks they've suffered, the Von Erichs still deserve to be called "The First Family of Wrestling."

First of all, when The Honky Tonk Man first appeared in the WWF, he said he was there to help his "good buddy" Hulk Hogan clean up the WWF. When he didn't receive the fan approval he wanted, what did he do? He turned his back on the fans and signed with Jimmy Hart.

Secondly, he clobbered Jake "The Snake" Roberts with his guitar on a "Snake Pit" segment in February and cheated his way to a "victory" over Jake at WrestleMania III.

If that isn't enough, Honky Tonk used the leverage of the bottom rope to take the Intercontinental title from Rick Steamboat this past June in Buffalo.

Does that answer your question, Dave?

RICH PALLADINO
Reading, MA

VON ERICH FOREVER

In the October 1987 issue of *Inside Wrestling*, Eddie Ellner stated in "The Insider" that "Mike [Von Erich], drunk and stoned, could no longer navigate his car." This is not true. Mike was not "stoned." He had a very, very small amount of marijuana

in the car, but he was *not* "stoned."

Also in this same issue, in the feature "Plain Speaking," Matt Brock says, "David Von Erich died years ago. Mike Von Erich committed suicide recently . . . Kerry Von Erich is on the sidelines and may never recover . . . and yet World Class continues to insist that the Von Erich family is the first family of wrestling . . . the Von Erich family is fading fast."

Yes, David and Mike have died, but their memory remains strong in our hearts, always will, and we will always love them. As far as Kerry is concerned, he *is* recovering, and is even planning to return to wrestling in two to three months—something all of us World Class fans are looking forward to. Furthermore, even though he was forced to give up the belt, Kevin is the greatest champion there is—anywhere.

The Von Erich family has done more for the sport of wrestling than any other family has ever done, not to mention all the work they do for various charities. The Von Erich "legend" will never fade. They love their fans, and we will always love them.

KIM ALLEN
Pilot Point, TX □

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March 1985/Starcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steambat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwin, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

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APRIL 1983

April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Briscoes, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.

May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.

June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Pattersson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.

July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.

October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.

November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.

December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.

January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.

February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.

March 1984/Starcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorf.

May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!

June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.

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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 20)



Garvin locks up Flair on the mat. Before he won the belt, Garvin's biggest problem was not figuring out how to beat Flair, but deciding how to combat the interference of the Horsemen. A cage match solved that problem.

The next day, three hours before the match, Ronnie Garvin is very upset. His prematch meal—steak, eggs, and juice—is late and he's worried about upsetting his schedule.

"I like to sit down precisely three hours before a match and eat," Garvin said. "It's part superstition, part metabolic fact. If I eat too soon, I feel weak at match time. If I eat too late, I get heavy and sluggish. I swear Flair is behind this somehow."

In fact, I learned, Flair was behind it. Twenty dollars to the delivery boy delayed Garvin's dinner by 30 minutes. Garvin ate half his steak and threw the rest away.

Food or no food, Garvin dominates the match. Each punch seems to penetrate Flair's body, and the champion weakens by the moment. At the 12-minute mark, Flair attempts an uncharacteristic dropkick. Garvin catches Flair in mid-air and brings him hurtling down to the canvas. Writhing in agony, Flair attempts to get up but cannot. Garvin delivers two kneedrops to the champ's back. Flair is in trouble; he cannot

move. Worse, he cannot summon the strength to disqualify himself.

Suddenly, in storm Arn Anderson and Lex Luger. They begin screaming at the referee, demanding he check Garvin's hands for a foreign object. While the referee attempts to restore order, Flair manages to roll out the side of the ring. He is in the dressing room before you can say "disqualification."

Garvin's dressing room is an unrecognizable mess. His soft and supple hands have ripped the front of his locker off its hinges and he's thrown it through a plate glass door. "How many more times is he going to get away with it?" he screams. "How can they continue to let Flair do what he does?"

"Flair isn't your problem," I say. "It's the rules that get in your way. Flair plays the rulebook like a violin. You've got to stop that if you want the title."

Ronnie Garvin levels his stare at the broken dressing room and, in a quiet voice laced with certainty, says, "I want that title. Dammit, I want that title." □

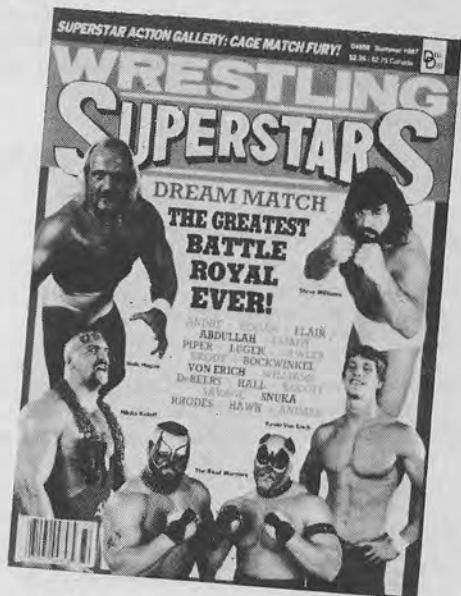
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LISTEN HERE, I'D SMASH YOUR
FACE... ONLY YOU'RE SO SKINNY YOU
MIGHT DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY.



THE BIG BULLY!
I'LL GET EVEN
SOME DAY

OH DON'T LET
IT BOTHER YOU,
LITTLE BOY!



DARN IT! I'M SICK AND TIRED OF
BEING A SCARECROW! CHARLES
ATLAS SAYS HE CAN GIVE ME A
REAL BODY. ALL RIGHT! I'LL GAMBLE
A STAMP AND GET HIS FREE BOOK!



BOY! IT DIDN'T TAKE ATLAS LONG TO
DO THIS FOR ME! WHAT MUSCLES! THAT
BULLY WON'T SHOW ME AROUND AGAIN!



THERE'S THAT BIG STIFF AGAIN,
SHOWING OFF IN FRONT OF
GRACE AND THE CROWD.
WELL, IT'S MY TURN
THIS TIME!



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DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY!

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